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BATTLE FOR YOUR VOTES UNDER WAY

THE election race has begun and the isle faces decision time on who is to represent us at Westminster.

Thanet South is a key marginal seat, with sitting Labour MP Dr Steve Ladyman facing competition from Conservative hopeful Laura Sandys, LibDem Peter Bucklitsch, UKIP's well-known local man Trevor Shonk and Independent Green and Ramsgate businessman Tim Garbutt.

Dr Ladyman, a former Minister of State for Transport, retained his seat in 2005 with a reduced majority of

■ BY TOM BETTS

ELECTION 2010

just 664 votes. Defeat would end 13 years of the Thanet South seat being in Labour hands, Dr Ladyman having taken it from disgraced Tory Jonathan Aitken in 1997.

In what promises to be a lively campaign, outspoken independent Mr Garbutt has launched a strong internet campaign via his websites.

On the north side of the isle, mean-

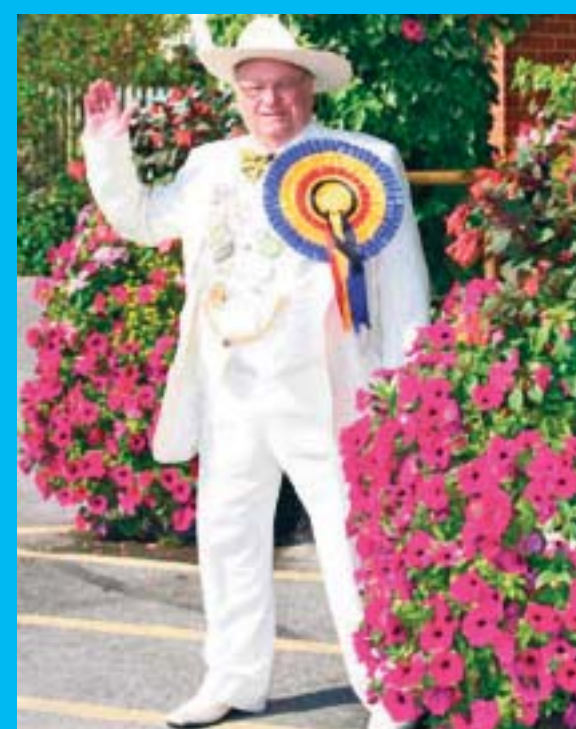
while, incumbent MP Roger Gale will believe he has a good chance of retaining the seat he has held since 1983.

That year he beat Cherie Blair, the wife of former Prime Minister Tony Blair, and will be looking for a seventh straight victory in the constituency.

He will face three opponents: Labour's Michael Britton, Liberal Democrat Laura Murphy and UKIP's Rosamund Parker; all will be looking to overturn Mr Gale's 7,634-vote majority.

In Thanet South the key to the settlement of power could manifest itself

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



THE PARTY'S JUST BEGUN

Yesterday's calling of the General Election set in motion what should be one of the most exciting political tussles for years... and nowhere is the battle likely to be fought more strongly than here on the isle.

However, public regard for Parliament and its politicians has probably never been lower, the expenses scandal having propelled a mistrust and cynicism that can ultimately only be harmful to the democratic process.

Accordingly, you may wish to help bring about a complete turnaround in the British political system - and one party is ready to welcome you with open arms. It is the Official Monster Raving Loony Party and leader Alan 'Howling Laud' Hope, above, is looking for candidates to stand in Thanet's two electoral constituencies. • SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

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'Our beautiful Margate? You're talking rubbish'

■ BY TOM BETTS

MARGATE is in need of a good spring-clean, according to one councillor who says she is shocked at the state at some parts of the town.

Iris Johnston, who represents Margate Central ward, has highlighted how uncleared filth is blighting an area once known as one of the country's premier seaside resorts.

The Labour councillor is particularly keen to see the seafront from Westbrook to Cliftonville tidied up, with new bins for dogs' mess.

She said: "If you walk the length of the seafront you see so much rubbish - it's not good enough. Parts of Margate look a real state and it needs to be put right for the summer."

"I had the grandchildren here and took them down the prom at the bottom of Hatfield Road and Sea View terrace.

Neglected

"Once we had negotiated the dogs' mess and seen many gardens full of blown-in rubbish, we had to avoid the broken glass."

"The bin is still missing from the bottom and the whole place looks neglected and uncared for. And this was in the week we all had our new council-tax bills."

"I was promised the dog bins on Margate seafront would be reinstated by January last year and still there is no sign of them. Neighbours constantly complain to me and I tell the ward councillors, but nothing happens."

"The former Sea Bathing nurses' home area is still full of rubbish and the railings on the seafront badly need cleaning and painting."

"Marine Gardens looks butchered and we should have started the replacement work straight away. We keep talking about beautiful Margate. It is anything but at the moment!"

In response, Shirley Tomlinson,



CLEAN UP OUR ACT! Iris Johnston says parts of Margate are in a dreadful state

Thanet council's Tory cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Keeping Thanet clean is one of the council's priorities because we know it is something that matters to our residents."

"With the summer season fast approaching, we are putting extra resources into cleaning up our beautiful area, with additional seasonal staff taken on in the last week."

"The beaches and promenades are always our priority at this time of the year and our teams will be working their way from Cliftonville to Westbrook."

"As usual, we will also be installing extra-large bins along Margate seafront before the start of the main season and the missing dog bin along the seafront is being replaced."

"In the meantime, people can use the litter bins along the seafront to deposit their bagged dog waste."

"While the council does everything it can to keep Margate - and the rest of Thanet - as clean as we can, there's a sad truth here. We're not the ones who dump rubbish and drop litter. We're the ones that have to clean it up."

"We're responsible for public areas, not private property, such as people's gardens, where some of the problems have been highlighted."

US plane crews to be honoured at memorial

THE memorial to the aircrews of the US Air Force Liberators shot down over the isle in April 1944 takes place on Tuesday, April 27.

The event will be held in Westgate-on-Sea at the war memorial and cliff-top near Westgate Pavilion in Sea Road, near St Mildred's Bay, where one of the aircraft crashed.

The dog tags of one of the crewmen, Lt George Hafner, which were recovered from the beach at Foreness Point, where the other Liberator crashed, are to be formally returned to the representative of the US Air Force, which has expressed its support for the service.

A flypast of F15 fighter aircraft will take place prior to the service.

Trust to take over reins at the Turner

AN INDEPENDENT charitable trust will now take on the management and operational duties of the Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate.

It was the responsibility of Kent County Council, which remains on board as the principal revenue funder, alongside Arts Council of England.

Mike Hill, Kent County Council's cabinet member for community services, said: "With progress on the building going well and the responsibility for Turner Contemporary now in the hands of its independent board, everything is set for a successful launch in a year's time."

KCC retains the responsibility for the construction of the building and will lease it to the trust upon completion.

Search continues for maniac moped rider

POLICE are appealing for help in tracing the rider of a silver moped after an incident in which a man was seriously injured.

The 23-year-old spent weeks in hospital after the collision at about 9.20pm on Wednesday, February 24, outside Dame Janet school in Newington Road, Ramsgate.

The moped came up behind the pedestrian on the path, broke sharply and the rider came over the handlebars. The biker got up and rode off, but the pedestrian collapsed a short while afterwards.

Anyone with information is asked to phone police on 01622 690690, quoting reference 20100224-1683.

Theme park chief talks of dream world

DREAMLAND must feature a mixture of old and new rides and attractions to pull in the punters when it opens in 2012, according to the director of the project to bring the venue back to life.

Speaking at the Thanet Local Board at Margate Media Centre on Wednesday last week, Jonathon Bryant, from the Dreamland Trust, gave an enthusiastic presentation on the park's future to a large audience of the public.

He said the park would need to feature new rides to appeal to young people as well as rides that would appeal to those with a taste for nostalgia.

He said: "We want to bring out a sense of excitement and thrill. We see there being a very contemporary edge to Dreamland. It will have some nostalgia value, but that is not

enough to generate footfall and we need to have a new presentation. It needs to have a modern twist. We need stimulation for all the family."

Half of the 18-acre site will become a heritage theme park, but concern has been expressed that it will need to feature white-knuckle rides as well as the more genteel attractions.

Caterpillar

Some of the rides that may appear on the site could eventually include a new big wheel, a Wild Mouse roller-coaster, River Caves boat ride and a circular Caterpillar ride.

However, Roy Ovenden, local businessman and former Mayor of Margate, said: "The eras of the 50s and 60s are gone. Everybody's expectations are higher than Caterpillar or River Cave rides."

One older female audience member told Mr Bryant: "The kids want to be scared to death these days."

"It looks like there will be a lot of old rides that I will be able to go on and I look forward to doing that, but the kids will need more than that, which is why they go to places like Thorpe Park."

Mr Bryant said that "commercial viability" was the biggest thing on his mind and that he hoped the cinema building could also be revamped and brought back into use.

He referred to the recent redevelopment of Adventure Island in Southend, which he used to visit as a child and has been seen as a big success.

Mr Bryant said the Dreamland venture could be just as successful.

Visit www.dreamlandmargate.com for more information on the project.

Are you mad enough to stand for this lot?

■ BY TOM BETTS

ARE you Loony enough to enter the world of politics?

The Official Monster Raving Loony Party is looking for candidates to stand in Thanet's two electoral constituencies and wants to hear from anyone who feels they are up to the task.

Election fever is already hotting up, but as it stands, the party has no declared candidates to stand in the isle's two constituencies, which is disappointing for an area famed for having more than its fair share of oddballs.

Leader Alan 'Howling Laud' Hope says there is still time to get involved.

Fun-loving

Mr Hope, who is standing against Tory leader David Cameron in the constituency of Witney in Oxfordshire, said: "We would like to hear from anyone who feels they can represent us at the election in Thanet.

"We don't have anyone yet but would love to add to the 36 candidates we have standing across the country. We want people who are willing to stand up and say things about their area.

"We need someone with a good sense of humour, obviously, and we don't want anyone who is racist or nasty. We are fun-loving people and perhaps the only party in the world who take the pee and get away with it.

"All our candidates are very nice and honest... and they admit to being Loonies, unlike the other parties. We are the official Loony party, not to be confused with the other loony parties - Labour, Conservative and Liberal."



CRAZY BUNCH: The Official Monster Raving Loony Party is looking for a Thanet candidate to stand at the General Election

Despite its madcap image, the party has been more influential in British politics than many would credit.

The Loonies called for animal passports long before they were introduced and were long-time advocates of bringing the voting age down to 18 from 21.

"We love to have a laugh, but we have some great points. On the pets' passports everyone said told us 'Don't be loony', but it was adopted," said Mr Hope.

Anyone who wishes to stand in either Thanet North or Thanet South has to cough up the

£500 fee to stand, but it will be returned to them if they manage to poll 100 or more votes.

The party was established in 1983.

Mr Hope took over as leader in 1999 following the death of his good friend and party co-founder, rock star Screaming Lord Sutch.

He said: "When we formed the party he was leader and I chairman and deputy leader, with my wife as the secretary. There were only three of us and the party just grew and grew."

In 1999 Mr Hope was elected leader with his ginger tabby cat Cat Mandu, until the pussy's untimely death under the wheels of a car in 2002.

Texts to ex-girlfriend cost man court fine

A MAN forgot to delete his former partner's number from his phone and ended up in front of magistrates.

Graham Godfrey, 51, of Athlestan Road, Margate, accidentally sent a blank text to his partner of 17 years, Glynis Bromley, after an acrimonious split up.

But he contravened a county-court order telling him not to contact Miss Bromley. He admitted breaking the order.

Theresa Ruiz, prosecuting, said that Godfrey realised he had sent the text and then sent three others enquiring about pets and whether he had any mail.

She said: "There had been problems when Mr Godfrey ordered her out of the house and changed the locks.

"He admitted making the texts but didn't realise he was barred from contacting her."

Godfrey was given a conditional discharge for a year and ordered to pay £85 costs.

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Teenage kicks - always the same. Search 'teenagers'

Election: it's game on...

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE in the boundary changes to the constituency.

A Boundary Commission for England review means that the Thanet North seat now includes the villages of Minster, Monkton, Manston and Cliffsend, along with the wards of Cliftonville East and Cliftonville West.

If the boundary changes had been enacted before the last general election, Dr Ladyman would probably have lost out to Tory Mark MacGregor, which is an indicator of how tough the Thanet South battle will be.

Election-night excitement, on Thursday, May 6, will climax at Margate Winter Gardens, where the votes from both constituencies will be counted under the supervision of returning officer Richard Samuel, the chief executive of Thanet council.

• **Tell Yourthanet what YOU want from your prospective MPs and give your views on the election race.**

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You can also write to us at Yourthanet, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent, TN25 6SR.

Cliff-face repairs to prevent falling chalk injuring passers-by

IMPORTANT work to shore up a cliff-face that has been crumbling away will start in the next few weeks.

Emergency work is due to be carried out to cliffs at Stone Bay, Broadstairs, after a series of chalk falls in the last few months.

It is required after the recent spell of cold and wet weather led to chalk falls that were more frequent and larger than any that had occurred in recent years.

The work is out to tender and it is hoped that it will be completed in May.

Two-metre-high fencing will be put up at the back of the promenade, just in front of the cliff-face.

The aim is to stop people entering this area and getting hurt, as previous chalk falls included lumps of chalk the size of a football.

As a result, the beach huts that are usually sited at Stone Bay at this time of the year cannot be put back until the work is completed.

All beach hut-owners have been contacted and offered refunds for this period.

Other options, such as putting netting on the cliff-face to protect it, have been considered, but this would not be as effective.

Usually, in cases like this, loose material would be removed from the chalk cliff and the angle of the cliff-face altered to make it more shallow and less prone to falls, but at Stone Bay there is no room to do this because of the close proximity of the footpath at the top of the cliff.

Roger Latchford, Thanet council's cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, said: "It's critical that we get this work done and as soon as possible.

"We're doing everything we can to ensure that the work is out of the way before the main summer season begins.

"We can fully understand how annoying this may be for those who have beach huts at Stone Bay, but the most important thing is to keep people safe on our beaches.

"I'm sure everyone can understand that this could seriously injure someone and we just can't take that risk."

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Recreating the Dunkirk spirit

The tunnels beneath Dover Castle housed the operations centre for the audacious bid to bring stranded Allied troops back from the beaches of Dunkirk in 1940. To mark the 70th anniversary of Operation Dynamo, a re-enactment of the historic event is being held at the castle next month. **NICK AMES** joined rehearsals and discovered how the retreat was still a victory for some of Britain's bravest.

THIS year sees the 70th anniversary of the historic World War Two evacuation of the beaches of Dunkirk when thousands of Allied soldiers were plucked from under the Nazi Germans' guns and shells by an armada of warships, merchant vessels and pleasure craft.

Operation Dynamo, as the evacuation was known, was overseen from underneath Dover Castle. To mark the anniversary the labyrinth of tunnels under the castle will be open to the public as part of a series of events at the castle between May 28 to June 4.

Vice Admiral Bertram Ramsay, who was given less than a week to prepare the British escape from northern France, oversaw the operation.

From his headquarters in the tunnels he directed and inspired a small staff, which had the awesome task of planning the evacuation of British and French troops while under constant attack from German forces.

Shelling

By May 26, 1940 Ramsay had assembled 15 passenger ferries at Dover and a further 20 at Southampton.

These it was hoped would be able to embark troops direct from the quays at Dunkirk.

But minefields and shelling from German batteries on the French coast forced evacuation convoys to take longer routes to Dunkirk.

The first convoy, after sustaining heavy air attacks, found the port of Dunkirk with its oil tanks ablaze and only the passenger ferries Royal Daffodil and later the Canterbury succeeded in berthing.

By the end of the first day just 7,500 troops had been rescued and it was clearly impossible to use the port.

Officers on the beaches signalled for the rescue ships to be diverted to the east of the town.



AUTHENTIC: Visitors will get an exact idea of what the operation centre looked and felt like during 1940



BIG PLAN: Prime Minister Winston Churchill with Vice Admiral Bertram Ramsay, who planned the Allied escape

Ramsay knew he needed more seacraft to rescue the troops who were driven back to the Channel by Nazi forces and a plan was quickly drawn up.

In London the Admiralty's Small Vessels Pool had been collecting all available seaworthy pleasure craft.

With volunteer crews, many of whom had never sailed out of sight of land before, they were checked at Sheerness Dockyard and then sent to Ramsgate to await final sailing orders.

There the small boats were joined by a mixture of lifeboats, trawlers, Thames sailing barges and tugs.

The first convoy of little ships set sail from Ramsgate at 10pm on May 29 and by the next day they were streaming across the Channel in seemingly unending lines.

The dangers were great; ships, both large and small, were targets for German fighters, bombers, submarines and coastal batteries plus the random danger of mines which made the crossing unimaginably hazardous.

But the seas remained abnormally calm.

Many smaller craft headed for the beaches acting as tenders, ferrying men from the beaches to larger vessels anchored offshore.

Some of the larger trawlers and drifters loaded troops directly in Dunkirk Harbour.

On the evening of June 2, with the German forces closing in, Ramsay despatched another flotilla of ships, including 13 passenger ships, 14 minesweepers and 11 destroyers.

Only one more night of evacuation was possible. On the night of June 3 a final effort was made using British, French, Belgian and Dutch ships to bring out as many of the French rearguard as possible and more than 26,000 men were saved from the advancing German troops.

About 338,000 troops were rescued from Dunkirk, and almost 200,000 soldiers passed through Dover, Folkestone and Ashford.

During the nine-day operation the Southern Railway laid on a total of 327 special trains, which cleared 180,982 troops from Dover.

A total of 4,500 casualties were treated at the town's Buckland Hospital and all but 50 of these seriously ill men were saved.

During the week of commemorations the castle will be manned by re-enactors in wartime uniforms and costumes, a memorial service will be held, guns will fire in salute and a wreath will be laid.

• To see a video a tour of the tunnels go to www.yourkenttv.co.uk.



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: Operations staff at Dover castle had the daunting task of saving thousands of under-fire Allied troops

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Five of the very best

■ BY MARIJKE COX

FIVE of the UK's top police officers have been selected as potential candidates for the position of Kent's new Chief Constable.

The hopefuls were chosen from a list of eight applicants by the Kent Police Authority's appointments panel and will now face an intense two-day interview before a final decision in May.

Ann Barnes, chair of the authority, said the selection process for the £150,000-a-year job was "extremely difficult" but believes these candidates have what it takes to fill the role, which was left open following Mike Fuller's move to be HM Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service last month.

Mrs Barnes said the standard of applicants was outstanding, making the task of drawing up the shortlist difficult.

She said: "We had a high number of applicants. Kent is a popular force and this county is like no other when it comes to policing."

Mrs Barnes said the mix of urban and rural communities created real challenges for Kent Police and the Chief Constable.

"This combination means different sorts of policing are needed," she said. "We've also got millions of people coming through the county because of the port and the Channel Tunnel, which can bring so much misery through organised crime."

"Kent is one of the hardest counties to police, so it's vital we choose the right person."

Mrs Barnes said the prospective Chief Constable will be faced with a number of chal-



COP A LOOK: From left - Giles York, Simon Ash, Simon Cole, Alfred Hitchcock, and Ian Learmonth (who is not pictured) make up the shortlist of candidates for the position of Kent Chief Constable

lenges, including financial cuts, with a potential loss of £20 million from the budget during the next few years. But she said the calibre of the applicants filled her with confidence.

"The candidates really understand the challenges of policing this county," she said.

Deputy Chief Constable Adrian Leppard will take on the job temporarily until the position is filled at the beginning of August.

Mr Leppard had been expected to apply for the role permanently after Kent Police Authority said it would seek an exemption to rules which state a senior officer who has been deputy and assistant chief constable is unable to apply for the top job at the same force.

But Mrs Barnes confirmed Mr Leppard, who missed out on the Chief Constable position at Norfolk in January, did not apply. However, he said he was delighted to be appointed the role of temporary Chief Constable.

"There are exciting and challenging opportunities ahead, including our ongoing commitment to listen to the people of Kent and Medway and deal with the issues that really matter to them," he said.

THE SHORTLIST

- Giles York, 43, is Deputy Chief Constable of Sussex Police. He started his career in Kent in 1990 and has served as area commander of Medway, and head of Special Branch at Kent Police.
- Ian Learmonth, 52, is Deputy Chief Constable of Norfolk Police. He has been a police officer since 1976 and served at two other UK police forces before joining Norfolk.
- Simon Ash, 49, is Chief Constable of Suffolk Police. He began his career at Kent Police in 1982.
- Simon Cole, 43, is Deputy Chief Constable for Hampshire Police. He joined Hampshire in 2003 as Assistant Chief Constable having served in West Midlands Police since 1988.
- Alfred Hitchcock, 51, from Lancashire, is Deputy Chief Constable and head of the National College of Police Leadership and National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). He has more than 30 years' experience in policing.

THE chair of the Kent Police Authority has admitted she was disappointed that only one woman applied for the job of Chief Constable.

Ann Barnes, pictured right, said it showed the force was still a male-dominated profession and confessed she had hoped more female officers would have applied.

"Only one woman went for the job and she didn't make the shortlist," she said. "I was disappointed there were not more female candidates. Unfortunately there are very few women in senior positions. There has never been a female chief constable at Kent Police."

Mrs Barnes said she has been working towards improving the progression of women within the force. In 2006, a gender strategy group was set up to address the matter.

But Mrs Barnes admitted that to go for the chief constable job, the candidate would have to have completed a Senior Command Course, which is only available for officers at chief superintendent level, of which there is only one woman in Kent Police. Currently, there are 1,036 female officers - with the highest-ranking officer being Detective Chief Superintendent Debbie Doe.

Mrs Barnes said: "Women can reach these levels, but progression is tough."

"The situation is improving. We now have more women going through the promotion barriers so we are cracking the obstacles."

"We've taken positive action to change the situation and I think it is working."

Before leaving his position as chief constable, Mike Fuller said a modern, responsive police service needs a range of opinions and experience that only a balanced workforce can provide.

"Since 1978, we have increased the number of female officers by more than 350 per cent," he said. "Women work across a variety of roles in the force, such as forensics, emergency response, firearms and investigation."



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ED WALDEN



Q Tell us a little about yourself

A I was brought up in South Wales, and left school at 16. I joined the Royal Navy, serving for seven years. I subsequently joined British Transport Police (BTP) and now have 16 years of service with the force under my belt. I've also been an officer with Gwent Police as well as the New Zealand Police.

I have been married for five years and my wife and I moved to Kent after I was promoted to Inspector in December 2008 and relocated to Ashford.

Q Tell us a little bit about British Transport Police.

A Including myself there are 25 police officers and four detectives based at Ashford BTP station and we police 110 railway stations throughout Kent. Crime at the stations we police is down some eight per cent on last year – not only are offences down, but we are actually making more arrests and solving more of those crimes that do occur. The figures show the railway is a very safe environment and the chances of becoming a victim of crime are very low.

Q How did you come to work for BTP?

A I became interested in the police service while serving in the Royal Navy in 1993. BTP held a recruitment seminar in Plymouth,

where I was based and I realised it was a career that would give me some really good prospects, where I could use the skills I'd gained in the Royal Navy. Six months later, I joined as a police officer.

Q What's the difference between you and Home Office police forces?

A BTP is the national police force for the railways, providing a police service to passengers, rail operators and their staff throughout England, Scotland and Wales. We have 2,835 police officers and 1,455 support staff and work closely with our colleagues from Home Office forces and the train operating companies, including Southeastern.

Q Do you have different training?

A We undergo the same thorough training as the Home Office forces to ensure that we are fully-trained in upholding the law. However, working for BTP also requires good knowledge of the rail network and the unique issues that come with policing it.

Q What's the best bit of your job?

A I enjoy being able to do something that directly improves life for Kent's rail commuters. Increasing passenger safety and seeing dangerous people being taken off the streets is what it's all about for us.

Q What's the worst?

A The most difficult part of the job is dealing with the death on the railway. It's a particularly hard and a traumatic experience for everyone involved, having to inform a family after the death of a loved one.

Q How would someone go about becoming a BTP officer?

A I would advise anyone thinking about becoming a police officer to consider the BTP. There is scope to work nationally and in many specialist areas. Visit our recruitment website at www.btprecruitment.com.

Q What do you do in your spare time?

A I enjoy travelling a lot, getting outdoors and camping. I also like to cook – I think it's an important skill to have and I take a lot of my culinary inspiration from the different countries I've visited.

Q Which place do you want to visit most in the world and why?

A I would really like to visit Canada as I have heard so many good things about the country from family and friends who have visited. It's one of the few places I haven't yet got around to visiting and I hope to do so this summer.

Q&A

Inspector Ed Walden is in charge of policing at Kent's 110 railway station. Here the county's most senior British Transport Police officer talks to **Jill Hurst** about the best and worst aspects of his job

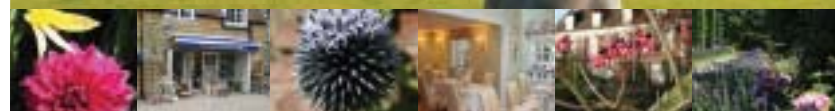
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Chimneys sent tumbling to make way for regeneration

According to the CQC, the trust must revise its informal leave policy for non-detained patients and provide evidence of this from May 1. It must also ensure members of staff are fully-trained to deal with the revised policy by June 1.

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Songbird's DNA secrets

WHY did the chicken cross the road?

Because scientists had already sequenced its DNA and it wanted to meet the zebra finch, which now joins it as the only other bird to undergo the research.

Darren Griffin, professor of genetics at the school of biosciences at the University of Kent, is among an international group to have mapped the small bird's genome.

The chicken was completed in 2004 and scientists say this new work will help them better understand how humans work.

The research was published in Nature magazine. The team said the work offers an opportunity to understand the human brain during learning and memory, as well as other features such as immunity and fertility. It will also reveal the genetics underpinning some of the uniquely fascinating

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

traits of birds, such as plumage and song. It was no straightforward task, though.

Teams from across the USA, Europe and the Middle East, including seven UK-based research groups, contributed to the project.

Prof Griffin said: "One of our key findings was the genetic basis of a lot of the variation between chickens and zebra finches.

"Clearly the two birds are very different, but evidence had suggested their genomes were actually very similar. In fact, we now have a clear idea of why this is not the case.

"The chicken was a great start for genomic studies because of the agricultural and embryology angle.

"In evolution, chickens are a bit out on a limb and the zebra finch is a much better representative of the majority of birds.

From here, we can use the information and tools we have developed to study many aspects of bird evolution and ecology."

The teams said zebra finches and other songbirds have one important thing in common with humans: they learn how to converse with one another. Chickens do not demonstrate this, so a comparison between the zebra finch and chicken genomes helped to identify where the genes involved in vocal learning are located.

It has been known for a while that listening to songs affects genes in the brain of a zebra finch.

This project has shown there are also important changes in what the genome actually produces when a young male zebra finch first learns his song from an adult tutor.



SMALL WONDER: Prof Darren Griffin with zebra finch

Fair boost to Bobby Moore fund

FOOTBALL fans have the chance to buy a piece of history while helping to raise money for a good cause.

A memorabilia fair, which includes programmes and badges, has so far raised more than £400 for the Bobby Moore Fund.

Organiser Simon Randall, from Maidstone, is returning to Folkestone Invicta's Buzzlines Stadium, in Cheriton Road, to add to the fund, set up in memory of the 1966 World Cup-winning captain.

One of England's greatest sporting heroes, Bobby Moore was capped 108 times, captained his country a record 90 matches and also won the FA Cup, the European Cup Winners' Cup and was named Footballer of the Year.

The defender played his club football for West Ham and Fulham over a career which spanned more than two decades. He was awarded the OBE in 1967.

His death in 1993, at the age of 51, from bowel cancer, led his widow Stephanie to set up the fund as part of Cancer Research UK and has raised over £12 million and funded



GOLDEN MEMORY: Bobby Moore lifts World Cup

36 projects across the UK.

The fair is in Folkestone Invicta's Stripes Bar on Sunday, from 11am to 2pm.

Entrance is 50p for adults, free for children, and there will also be a raffle.

Border Agency court challenge on 'unlawful' child interviews

YOUNG asylum-seekers detained at Dover are being denied basic care during "unlawful" interviews with customs officers, claims a new report.

The Refugee and Migrant Justice (RMJ) charity says many children are refused food, rest and medicine until after they have completed "oppressive" grillings with UK Border Agency (UKBA) staff.

In its report - Safe at Last? Children on the Front Line of Border Control - the organisation also alleges young migrants do not have access to legal or adult representatives, nor translators.

Chief executive Caroline Slocock said: "Unaccompanied children arrive hungry, cold and often ill, having travelled for months in great danger.

"Their welcome is an interview by the UK Border Agency that often puts welfare at risk and is used to gather information that is later used against them.

"Such interviews - carried out without independent adult or legal representation, and sometimes without the right interpreters - are unacceptable. Children should not be treated in this way."

RMJ says it first raised concerns about the 'illegal' interviews in March, 2009, when its Does Every Child Matter? report alleged the UKBA was failing to protect the welfare

of young asylum-seekers, as set out in the agency's own code of practice. The charity claims at least 20 interviews take place every month involving children as young as 12, but says the figure could be higher.

Mrs Slocock said: "They say the interviews are intended to help protect children, but unacceptable treatment continues. Children seeking asylum should be given care first. We are taking this to the courts, but in the meantime the interviews should stop."

RMJ has applied to the High Court requesting a judicial review of the interviews, and on their use in the decision-making processes that later affect a child's asylum claim.

UKBA strategic director for protection Hugh Ind said it was not true youngsters were denied basic needs such as rest, food or medicine. He said: "We have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and we take this very seriously.

"To ascertain a child's welfare we need to speak to them and an initial interview is necessary. We will continue to ensure vulnerable children are referred to welfare agencies or the police as soon as possible.

"Our staff and interpreters have clear guidance on how to conduct interviews and comply with a code of conduct."

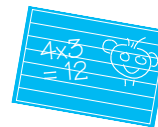


Ray of sunshine #1 - No hand baggage weight limit

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See website for details. easyJet has no weight restrictions on hand baggage except you must be able to lift the bag into the overhead lockers yourself.

The only stipulation is that the maximum dimensions do not exceed 56 x 45 x 25 cm.



BREAK TIME



Pupils experiment to win top prize

ST LAWRENCE COLLEGE held its annual science and technology challenge as part of Science and Engineering Week activities last week.

More than 20 schools and 100 year-five juniors attended with parents and teachers to complete three tasks and a fun quiz.

For the biology task they had to extract gas from a potato, while in chemistry they filtered muddy water to make drinking water. In design technology, youngsters used balsa wood to build long bridges capable of holding a 200g weight.

A school spokesman said: "It was a great day, with some excellent science displayed by all competitors."

Rachel Russell, from Pfizer, and the Rev Mark Aitken, head of St Lawrence College presented the prizes. In first place, winning £150 to spend on science equipment, was Ramsgate's Dame Janet junior school (pictured), while in second place, and winning £100, was Worth primary school. Northbourne Park school finished third and won £50. All 12 winning pupils received a £10 book token.

Young athletes take school to world biathlon contest

■ BY TOM BETTS

BIATHLETES from the isle have qualified as the best in the South East for the national finals at Crystal Palace at the end of March.

A range of terrific individual performances gave the team from Chatham House Grammar School the chance to improve on their sixth position in last year's finals in Bath.

The team of Charlie Gambrell, Alex Kirkpatrick, Ben Pond and Rachael Seaman were in impressive form in the 100-metre swimming competition and the one-kilometre run.

They go into the finals in third place in the team rankings in the UK, and Alex said: "We have great team spirit and we are determined to do well in the final. We are all swimming at our peak, recording personal-best times."

The pupils have also been invited to compete at the world schools biathlon, which takes place at Medway Park on Saturday. They will compete in the morning, while the men's modern pentathlon is in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, Alex, Ben and Charlie, together with Jake Davies, have been named Kent champions in the 4x50m freestyle relay and 4x50m medley relay at the Black Lion in Gillingham.

The last time both trophies were won by the school was in 1994. Head of school Andy Williamson said: "The biathletes and swimmers are a credit to their sports. They are dedicated and committed and work very hard."



IN THE SWIM: From left, Charlie Gambrell, Ben Pond, Jake Davies and Alex Kirkpatrick with their trophies

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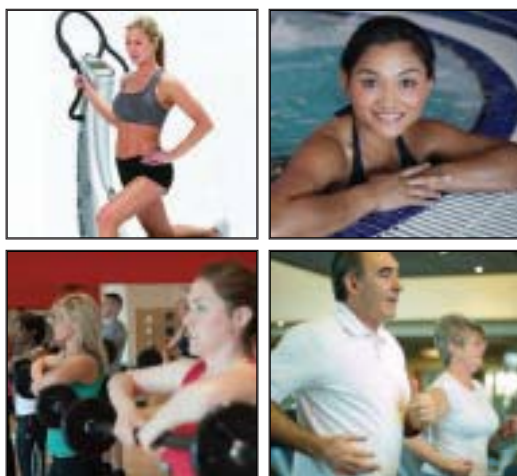


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YOUR LETTERS

Tories should really get their facts right

Last week's correspondent William Epps, who keeps peddling misinformation on the Labour government's funding to Thanet, really needs to examine all of the grants, benefits and business rate returns to the area, as well as the usual settlement that was guaranteed for three years despite the recession.

At a recent meeting councillors were advised that the benefit commitment from central government is now at £76 million per annum, with 70 per cent going into the local economy.

This is a reflection, I believe, on our largely ageing population, who need housing and council tax help, as well as those younger people who need assistance in meeting their rent.

Under a Conservative government, with no minimum wage or credits, it would have been even worse.

The numerous grants to help people back into work or make the area stronger and safer are well documented and Mr Epps needs to ask his friends in the Conservative Party if they are satisfied that everyone who has received government regeneration funds are using them for the purpose they were intended.

My own efforts through the scrutiny system to get grants back from those who have not used them according to the Government's strict criteria are also a matter of public record.

When Tory MP Roger Gale belatedly showed an interest in Margate and urged people to buy a business in the lower high street, he forgot to mention that some had Labour government grants that had yet to be utilised.

It is a disgrace to see an empty, filthy property knowing the owners are sitting on massive grants for its regeneration.

Similarly, hotels that had grants and went over to flats as soon as Labour lost control of Thanet council in 2003, need to pay back any outstanding balances.

The farce of Margate's Marks and Spencer building and its environs, and the neglected roads, pathways and damaged street furniture are part of almost daily complaint.

Mr Epps might wish to take these points up when he next attends his local Conservative Party's letter-writing circle.

Cllr Iris Johnston (Labour)
Margate Central ward

Give our youngsters place to call their own

Could someone at Thanet council please stop and think for a moment?

In Ramsgate the underused marina car park, for example, or at least half of it, could be used as a dedicated area for our young

your blogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living on the Isle of Thanet...



IF GENERAL public interest in politics were displayed in pie chart form, it would predominantly consist of just one colour and be labelled with a giant thumbs down.

The electorate's widespread belief that our MPs and would-be replacements are all stereotypical soundbite-belching, back-stabbing, policy-pinching politicians has led to widespread voter apathy, with turn-out at the polls steadily declining.

Apart from the odd expose on second home fiddles or MPs' sex and fetish-related sleaze story, politics rarely captures the public's imagination.

But every so often all the right ingredients come together to propel politics up in the interest stakes, sending Question Time ratings through the roof.

Such a time in almost upon us – the General Election is just around the corner. Importantly, there's no clear favourite in the race for Number 10.

In the one corner we have red-rossette-wearing Scotsman Gordon Brown and in the other his blue counterpart David 'call me Dave' Cameron.

The boring days when Tony Blair and his loyal Blairites would walk it without breaking a sweat are long gone. This is a proper head to head race.

And that makes it all exciting for us, the electorate. We can watch the heavyweight political rivals shout, tease, provoke and point at each other during the heated Prime Minister's Question Time sessions.

As things stand, this election is practically teetering on the edge of being settled behind the Houses of Parliament bike shed.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on 01303 817022 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Thanet blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourthanet.co.uk.

skateboarders who at the moment use the totally unsuitable bandstand area as their base.

Also, news that the neglected Royal Victoria Pavilion may attract some much-needed funds is very welcome, and what better than a super ice rink – a year-round facility which would be a wonderful asset to the area?

The café part would make a great area for adults and youngsters alike, with perhaps summer art exhibitions and such like.

John Jones, Ramsgate

Planning system not on even playing field

Once again residents of Broadstairs are battling against the unfairly-loaded planning system that has thrived under this government.

This is actually the fourth or fifth time the same battles have been fought over the same site in Granville Road.

The simple facts concern the building of an obtrusive, eyesore of an extension some 1.5 metres bigger than planning permission.

Rather than admit this mistake and take it down developer and architect have used every single reapplication and appeal procedure to retain as much of the illegal structure as possible, as residents stand aghast at the heavily-loaded pro-developer framework in

which we must work.

Developers are trying to get away with illegal building, garden-grabbing and multiple reapplication before appeal in the run-up to an election.

They are obviously concerned that if a Conservative government was elected, powers would be given back to local residents – neighbourhoods would have a real say in development that impacted on them and this war of attrition undermining local views and voices would stop.

We will stand up for the residents of Granville Road until the Conservatives are able to put in place policies that truly give power back to our residents.

Cllr Chris Wells (Conservative), Viking ward;
Laura Sandys (Conservative), Thanet South
Parliamentary candidate

Writer's interest just doesn't add up

D McGregor (letters, March 24) wrote about the interest rates on loans provided by Kent Savers.

Unlike Germany, in Britain there is no legal limit to the rates of interest that can be charged.

Kent Savers is committed to influencing Government policy to introduce interest rate limits, thereby reducing the harm that home credit providers and loan sharks are causing to the most

Battle lines have well and truly been drawn, from Westminster to the farthest reaches of the UK.

MPs in marginal constituencies are working their socks off to hold on to their seats while prospective parliamentary candidates are working just as hard to snatch them away.

Look outside your house/office/train now. I'll bet within 10 minutes you'll be able to spot a campaigner canvassing for your vote.

And they'll do anything to get you on side. So why not see what they're willing to offer you in return for your 'x' against their name when you go to the polls.

Your support is surely worth at least a Mars bar? Or perhaps you can convince your MP to hop on one leg in return for your vote? It's worth a go.

And when our MPs and wannabe-MPs are not out door-knocking, they're back at HQ desperately seeking some dirt to fling at their opposition.

It's like watching the Trisha show.

"He'll raise taxes ... and he supports ID cards," one MP's press release could potentially scream.

"No I won't... and no I don't, they're lying. Besides his party wants to hand over power to Brussels," comes the ever-escalating response.

So I urge you, pay attention and get involved.

Once the election is over the boring political status quo will soon be restored.

That is until the next Cabinet member's sleaze scandal is spread across the tabloids.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

vulnerable people in Kent.

In the meantime, we will continue to provide the cheapest possible loans to those who need them; currently the rates that Kent Savers and other local credit unions charge for each type of loan are lower than any other credit provider.

If Mr MacGregor is able to provide details of anyone providing lower rates for similar loans we will be only too pleased to refer our members to that provider.

John Fowler, chief officer, Kent Savers

Parents have a duty to educate correctly

I received a reply to my letter in Yourthanet (March 17) from one chap who made a comment about the lack of parental involvement in children's education.

We agreed that too many parents do not take their children's education seriously.

I was also impressed by a woman in the BBC4 Indian Railways documentary who works all the hours God sends as a railway porter to pay for the education of her five sons.

Of course, some people would moan that she should not have to do this, that the State should provide.

But they would miss the point.

This woman believes that a good education will get her sons out of

the rut she thinks she is in. Her sons respond accordingly and work hard at school.

For too long we have allowed various governments to take personal responsibility away from each of us. Laws increasingly intrude into our private lives because, in essence, the State does not trust us. In consequence people are less inclined to take responsibility for their own children.

The recent attempt to widen CRB checks to include everyone who has 'anything' to do with a child was mad and Orwellian in the extreme: even the old Soviet Union never went that far.

Children spend less than 10 per cent of their lives at school. The rest they spend with their parents.

We should reassert our own parental rights, ensure that we help other parents in need with guidance, support and common sense intrusions when necessary and tell the noseey State to take a hike.

Gerry O'Donnell, Ramsgate

Lessons not being learnt at all, Mr Muir

Following Gerry O'Donnell's letter about our education system and the bureaucrats I was amused to read Robert Muir's response.

Mr Muir, Harold Wilson set-up comprehensive schools, which did not, as intended, improve education for all, but held back the most intelligent in order to keep up (or 'keep down') with the slowest learners.

Tony Blair introduced the opportunity for everyone to go to university at the expense of technical and practical skills.

Industries are now desperate for engineers.

Check out what the aircraft industry is saying about what will happen when the current engineers retire, because there are very few youngsters to replace them.

Most degrees are either worthless or meaningless.

Who ever thought it was beneficial to have a degree in The Beatles? And since when was a degree required to clip dogs?

The result of this exercise is to devalue the worth of the degree.

I cannot be alone in wondering if this is merely another way of achieving 'bums on seats' and, subsequently, more income.

Standards of education have most definitely declined over the last 13 years.

I was horrified to note the history homework my 15-year-old granddaughter was doing at grammar school (fortunately we still have some in Thanet) when it was reminiscent to me of work I did (in the 1950s) in junior school.

And, Mr Muir, if you wonder what premise Mr O'Donnell uses to base his theory I suggest you step out into the street, where you will undoubtedly find a gang of misbehaving youths.

Just try pointing out to them the error of their ways and see how they react and the standard of English they use.

Sheila Bransfield MA (maritime history at the University of Greenwich), Acol

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DAY & NIGHT

Concert for church fund

TWO talented performers will be giving a fund-raising concert at the Herne Bay United Church at 7.30pm on Saturday.

Soprano Anne Gardener and pianist Carol Anne Wells present A Song In My Heart, a selection of songs from folk to Broadway. Tickets cost £7, with proceeds going to the church's organ fund. To book call 01227 366322/374776.

Book up for coach trips

AN EXCITING programme of coach trips from Faversham is being offered by Sweet Scene Trips.

On April 17, join a tour of BBC Television Centre and Westfield shopping centre. A trip to Sluis in Holland is offered on May 9 and a two-night break to the Edinburgh Tattoo departs on August 19. Call 01795 535293 for details.

Church hosts folk band

FOLK group Quorum will be performing at St Mary the Virgin Church in Willesborough on Saturday.

Enjoy an evening of live music from Brian 'Trooper' Hawes, Mick Waite, Geoff Hutchinson and Ted Bishop.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £5 on the door. Wine and soft drinks will be available.

Bugs' life at museum

DISCOVER the wonder of nature with the Powell-Cotton Museum's Bugs in the Garden event.

Children can look at habitats, try pond-dipping and collect specimens at the museum at Quex Park, Birchington. The event runs until Friday and again from Monday to next Friday. For details visit www.quexamuseum.org.

Learn to make bunting

FAMILIES are invited to make colourful bunting to decorate Herne Bay at free workshops this week.

Run by Animate, the sessions will be held at St Philip Howard Catholic School today, Herne Bay Junior School on Thursday and Herne Junior School on Friday. Places are limited so book by calling 01227 811800.

Jazz band in comeback

LIVE jazz can be enjoyed at The Grand in Folkestone on Thursday when the Pete Abbott Group returns.

The band, featuring Abbott, Mike Austin, Andy Wall, Roger Jeffery and Claire Harris, will perform in Keppels Music Room from 8.30pm. Admission is £5. To book seats, call 01303 277175.

Biggins goes to the ball

CHRISTOPHER Biggins will be the special guest auctioneer at Demelza House's May Ball this year.

Held at Eastwell Manor near Ashford on May 15, the event will raise funds for the children's hospice. Guests will enjoy Champagne and a three-course dinner.

Tickets cost £100. Call 01795 845204, email sarah.taylor@demelza.org.uk or visit www.demelza.org.uk.

Blowers sure to bowl you over

HENRY BLOFELD

Saturday, April 10
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



SPEND an evening with one of Britain's great characters when Henry 'Blowers' Blofeld returns to Kent.

With his wicked sense of humour and ability to poke fun at every aspect of life, Blofeld has become one of the most beloved figures in broadcasting. In his new show, Caught Short and Grumpy, the cricket commentator talks about everything from sport, writing and food to political correctness and the European Union.

Fans can look forward to a hilarious evening in the company of this self-confessed 'stuffy old fart' as he tells amusing anecdotes from his long career and offers his opinion on all the frustrations of 21st century life.

Whether grouching about the disappearance of old-fashioned light bulbs or making fun of himself as usual, Blofeld has a real talent for blending common sense with his own ridiculous humour and the result is highly entertaining.

Never afraid to turn his insightful wit on his own absurdities, Blofeld loves to mock pomposity and tease anyone who takes themselves a bit too seriously. Find out more about his fascinating life and grumpy opinions in this funny and charming show.

Blofeld has been the voice of BBC radio's Test Match Special for nearly 40 years, and fans have grown to love his distinctive brand of commentary, which regularly wanders from the action to comment on what else is happening in the vicinity. Renowned for his idiosyncratic style, Blofeld is one of British sport's most cherished contributors.

Last year, a multitude of stars took part in his 70th birthday celebrations at London's Royal Albert Hall, highlighting the fond way in which sports fans view this funny and original commentator.

But his stage show is not just for cricket fans – Blofeld talks about his remarkable life and invites the audience to ask questions about anything they like. From Shakespeare to Le Carre, from space travel to sport, Blofeld is ready for anything and his answers are sure to be illuminating.

Growing up in the Norfolk countryside, Blofeld had an old-fashioned childhood during which he had little to do with his parents. The family name was immortalised in Ian Fleming's James Bond books, as the author was a friend of Blofeld's father and decided to bestow the name on 007's arch enemy.

The younger Blofeld's interest in cricket began while he was being educated at Eton and Cambridge, but he was originally destined for a career in finance. After spending three years training to be a merchant banker, he decided he hated it and became a journalist instead. This new career proved more success-



ful and he started working on the Times and became a freelancer for the Guardian. During his long career, he has written for most of the major newspapers and still writes a popular cricket column for the Daily Express.

But his true vocation was discovered in the 60s when the BBC asked him to record a trial cricket commentary. The experiment revealed an exciting new voice that would become a long-term star of their commentary team and

enhance the listening experience.

Over the years Blofeld has revealed himself to be a skilled entertainer, as well as a commentator, and his live shows have proved incredibly popular as people flock to hear the opinions of this broadcasting legend.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £17.50/£15.50. To book call the box office on 01227 769075 or visit the website at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.



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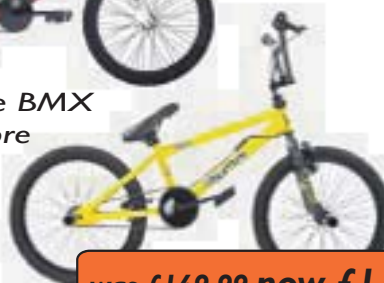
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THE BAND OF THE BRIGADE OF GURKHAS

Thursday, April 8 to Saturday, April 10,
The Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover



ENJOY some outstanding music at the annual festival by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Now in its 11th year, the fund-raising event offers audiences the chance to hear wonderful music performed by remarkable musicians. This year the band will be joined by West Country singer Tim Pitman, who has recently performed at the Birmingham Military Tattoo.

Other highlights include performances by local singer Rebecca Robinson and London Symphony Orchestra violinist Christine Townsend, who is a

professor of violin at Kneller Hall, the headquarters of the British Army Band Service.

The performance will include a rendition of the haunting theme from Schindler's List. Pipers from the Battalion of the Royal Gurkha Rifles will also be performing during the festival, which takes place in the Nye Hall.

This year, proceeds from the festival will be donated to Help for Heroes. Concerts start at 7.45pm and tickets cost £12/£10. To book call 01304 366337 or visit www.gurkhafestivalofmusic.co.uk.



THE SKINTS

Friday, April 9, Westcoast, Margate



MUSIC fans can enjoy an evening rich in great music when The Skints visit Thanet later this week.

Formed in 2005, the band from London was put together by a group of teenagers who took their inspiration from ska-punk acts like King Prawn and Capdown. As they began to create their own sound however, they drew on more rootsy influences like Augustus Pablo and Max Romeo.

Over the last year, The Skints have performed a number of headline shows and supported the likes of The King Blues, The Slackers and The Aggrolites.

Hey Rudi are sure to fill the dance floor when they provide the main support, as the Kent-based band knows how to belt out great covers of hits by Madness and The Specials.

The event will be a very special occasion for One Letter Better, who make their live debut on Friday. Comprised of second year Canterbury Christ Church University students and the drummer from Medway band, Tyrannosaurus Alan the band will be proving their ska-rock credentials with the opening 20-minute set.

Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets cost £3.

MAX MILLER, THE CHEEKY CHAPPIE

Saturday, April 10, Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs



FROM the public persona to the private man, Max Miller's life and work is explored in a highly entertaining stage show.

From the 1930s to the 1950s, Miller was one of Britain's most popular comedians and became the country's highest paid variety star.

Rising from his humble beginnings in Brighton, the Cheeky Chappie became hugely successful and was renowned for his ability to hold audiences in the palm of his hand.

On stage, he was a larger than life character who dressed to impress and was not afraid to blow his own trumpet, as his comic genius was clear for all to see. But in private, he was a quiet man who preferred to stay away from the glitter of show business.

Dave Sealey presents an evening of nearly clean laughter, presenting Miller's saucy humour in authentic style, while also revealing something of the man behind the bravado.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10 for Sarah Thorne Theatre Club members or £12 for non-members, who must book at least 24 hours in advance. To book call 0845 262 6263 or email info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk to reserve seats.



CRAFT IN FOCUS 2010

Friday, April 6 to Sunday, April 11, Kent College, Canterbury

DISCOVER the country's best artists and craftsmen when Craft in Focus returns to Canterbury.

Widely considered among the best events of its kind, Craft in Focus exhibits work by leading craftsmen from across the country. Everything is made in the UK and offers a different experience for shoppers who are looking for something new, whether on the hunt for a special gift or a unique piece for their home.

From sculpture, ceramics and artwork to furniture, textiles and glassware, there is a wide choice of products that demonstrates the talent of contemporary designers.

Local exhibitors include silversmith Edward Mahoney from Faversham, ceramicist Louise Hummerstone from Canterbury and Whitstable-based jeweller Teresa Samson, among many others. Visitors will have the chance to learn about how the items are made and find out what inspires these talented artists and craftsmen.

Craft in Focus runs from noon to 5pm on Friday and 10am to 5pm next Saturday and Sunday. Admission costs £4/£3 for adults and is free for accompanied under-14s. To find out more, call 01622 747325 or visit www.craftinfofocus.com.

THE GRANGE OPEN DAYS

Friday, April 9 to Monday, April 12
The Grange, Ramsgate

THE home of influential architect Augustus Pugin will open its doors to the public this weekend.

Pugin was a prolific 19th century designer and architect who designed interiors for the House of Lords and influenced the look of many Victorian buildings in Britain. The Grade I listed house is one of the very few domestic houses designed by Pugin and he built it as his own family home, railing against the contemporary trend for Georgian terraces.

During the open days, visitors will be able to see the private chapel and the library where Pugin worked on his designs for the House of Lords. Using fragments found during the restoration process, the house's ornate wallpapers were recreated and adorn the walls once again.

The Grange can be viewed from 10am to 4pm, Friday to Sunday and 10am to 1pm on Monday. The adjacent parish church will be open from 10am to 4pm on Friday, Saturday and Monday and 2pm to 4pm on Sunday. Admission is free and booking is not required. For details call the Landmark Trust on 01628 825925 or email bookings@landmarktrust.org.uk.





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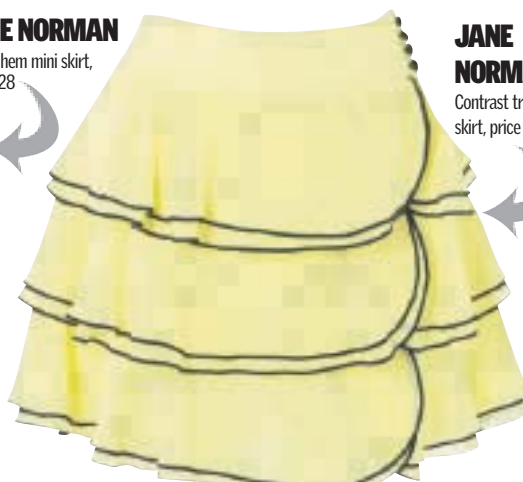
MATALAN
Papaya belted flare mini skirt, price £12



MATALAN
Be Beau embellished denim mini skirt, price £18



JANE NORMAN
Sequin hem mini skirt, price £28



JANE NORMAN
Contrast trim layered skirt, price £28



JANE NORMAN
Check & chain mini skirt, price £35



NEXT
Printed skirt, price £22



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Striped skirt, price £21.99



RIVER ISLAND
Floral jersey skirt, price £21.99



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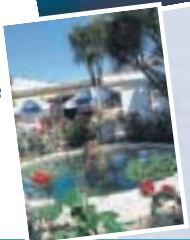
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CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No132

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EASY

	7	8				2		1
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				2				
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EASY

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EASY

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		1	3						5
8		5				4		3	
9					7	1			
		9	1	7	2				
						6			
4	1								

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Body or just the heart, say (5)
 4 Agree Ray was puzzled by unclear situation (4,4)
 8 From birth to death, enjoyable period (4,2,4,4)
 10 Lazy louse agitated ardently (9)
 11 This man is on target (5)
 12 One who is discovered? (4)
 13 Strain placed on harbour in country with low duties (3,5)
 17 Burdensome amount of drudgery perhaps (8)
 18 Fat fashion leader has small party (4)
 22 No end of good fortune concerning money (5)
 24 Reserve some diamonds in fashion centre (9)
 25 Dramatic lovers (5,3,6)
 26 Duly tear round with grounds for divorce (8)
 27 Hatter almost upset Greek character (5)

DOWN

- 1 Townsman takes article into Channel Islands on Buddhist (7)
 2 Criminal sheep rustler (3-6)
 3 Exact place ahead (4-2)
 4 Game complaint (6)
 5 Happening seven times a week as usual (8)
 6 OK it is 100% correct (3,5)
 7 Of little folk who are not completely self-indulgent (5)
 9 Tub for breakfast cereal? (4)
 14 He is a card (9)
 15 Sad beautiful girl's said bloomer (8)
 16 Hundred leaving transport replaced by thousand at the ceremony (8)
 17 Kay, after breaking law, to go on foot (4)
 19 Leaves complaint first about former medicinal drink (4-3)
 20 Dull dog moving inside dirty place (6)
 21 Discharge account and leave (6)
 23 Some manic rowdiness coming from multitude (5)

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Cologne's river (5)
 4 Zip-___ (8)
 8 Revolving firework (9-5)
 10 Frankness (9)
 11 Early (anag.) (5)
 12 Pour (4)
 13 Largest of Shetland Islands (8)
 17 Discovered (8)
 18 Belch (4)
 22 Even (5)
 24 Town near Sevenoaks (9)
 25 Under any circumstances (3,4,2,5)
 26 Dark colour (4-4)
 27 In front (5)

DOWN

- 1 Bat (7)
 2 Throw in (9)
 3 Nevertheless (4,2)
 4 Monastery (6)
 5 Bony (8)
 6 Breathing out (8)
 7 Each (5)
 9 Poke (4)
 14 Plenty (9)
 15 Cold confection (3-5)
 16 Feast (8)
 17 Overcast (4)
 19 Drunk (3-4)
 20 Nap (6)
 21 Ukrainian peninsula (6)
 23 Pansy genus (5)

YOUR HOROSCOPE BY RUSSELL GRANT

**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21-Feb 19)

BEWARE of a tendency to spread yourself too thinly. There are plenty of opportunities ahead and you want to experience them all. Choose the path that affords the most intellectual stimulation. Although learning something new will be frustrating, it will be fun, too.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

**ARIES** (Mar 21-Apr 20)

YOU'RE determined to spend more time on spiritually fulfilling pursuits. Hanging out with friends is better than spending long hours at the office and of course your nearest and dearest are eager to see you. Heading out with a large group will put a big smile on your face.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

**GEMINI** (May 22-Jun 22)

A CULTURED, sophisticated colleague will try to introduce you to a new hobby. You'll meet a lot of interesting friends. As a general rule you like to learn a little about every subject possible, but right now you'll feel compelled to develop expert knowledge in a specialised area.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

**LEO** (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOUR high ideals prompt you to make a brave move. Confronting someone who has abused their power will put you in a dangerous spot. Still, you're willing to risk everything for the sake of fairness. People admire your courage and may even get a crush on you as a result.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

**LIBRA** (Sep 24-Oct 23)

AN ATTENTIVE admirer is poised to wine and dine you. Although all this attention is flattering, it can be claustrophobic, too. Be sure to set aside some time for solitary pleasures. You're a lot more self-sufficient than you realise. Give yourself a chance to connect with your inner spirit.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23-Dec 21)

YOU'RE in the mood for fun, and why not? Recently you've been buried under a flurry of family responsibilities. Now you have a chance to get out and party. Join forces with a mischievous friend who likes getting in trouble. Together, you'll paint the town red.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

**PISCES** (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOU'RE in a good mood and feel excited at the prospect of starting a new job. This opening or opportunity will bring in lots of money, but more importantly it will give you a great deal of creative satisfaction. Trust your instincts when it comes to dealing with a counsellor.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

**TAURUS** (Apr 21-May 21)

YOU'RE very impressive now, so be sure to surround yourself with positive, practical people. A wonderful job opportunity could become available. At first glance, this position will seem out of reach. With encouragement you could actually get an interview and make a great impression.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

**CANCER** (Jun 23-Jul 23)

AN EXCITING career opportunity is about to land in your lap. Although the interview process will be gruelling you owe it to yourself to give it your best shot. If you have a choice between working for a flat salary or earning a commission, choose the latter.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

**VIRGO** (Aug 24-Sep 23)

AN INTENSE relationship is getting even hotter. You feel inexplicably drawn to someone who makes you furious one minute and happy the next. In the past, you paired up with people who offered you safety and security. Now you're ready for a walk on the wild side.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

**SCORPIO** (Oct 24-Nov 22)

LAUNCHING a spring cleaning project will keep you busy in the days ahead. Every once in a while you feel overwhelmed. When this happens, clear out your cupboards. Although you enjoy hanging on to old things, there's a difference between sentimental value and junk.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22-Jan 20)

STRONG ties to family prompt you to cut back your work schedule. If you've been coping with a horrible commute, you may decide to open a home-based business. You have the makings of a successful entrepreneur, thanks to your past experience and common sense.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No130

ACROSS: 1 Impact 4 Smutch 10 Tricolour 11 Jaunt 12 Karachi 13 Sirocco 14 Storage heater 16 Put a foot wrong 21 Debauch 22 Horizon 24 Iraqi 25 Annabelle 26 Yelped 27 Etched.

DOWN: 1 Intake 2 Prior 3 Choicer 5 Majorca 6 Truncheon 7 Hatbox 8 Coming to a head 9 Cross-hatching 15 Thumbnail 17 Abusive 18 Rarebit 19 Oddity 20 Indeed 23 Zilch.

QUICK SOLUTION No132

ACROSS: 1 Past tense 8 Catherine-wheel 10 Unreserve 11 Layer 12 Team 13 Mailman 17 Detected 18 Bump 22 Level 24 Tonbridge 25 For love or money 26 Navy-blue 27 Ahead.

DOWN: 1 Raquet 2 Interject 3 Even so 4 Friday 5 Skeletal 6 Exhaling 7 Evey 9 Prod 14 Abundance 15 Ice-olly 16 Festival 17 Dull 19 Pre-eyed 20 Snooze 21 Crimea 23 Viola.

EASY

8	5	7	6	1	9	3	2	4
9	2	6	5	3	4	7	1	8
1	3	4	2	8	7	9	5	6
6	7	9	8	2	3	1	4	5
2	8	5	9	4	1	6	7	3
4	1	3	7	5	6	2	8	9
3	9	2	4	7	5	8	6	1
7	4	1	3	6	8	5	9	2
5	6	8	1	9	2	4	3	7

MEDIUM

1	3	4	8	5	7	6	9	2
6	8	2	3	9	4	1	5	7
5	9	7	1	2	6	4	3	8
9	1	5	7	6	2	3	8	4
3	7	8	4	1	5	9	2	6
4	2	6	9	3	8	7	1	5
2	5	3	6	4	1	8	7	9
8	4	9	5	7	3	2	6	1
7	6	1	2	8	9	5	4	3

HARD

4	9	7	5	6	1	3	8	2
1	3	2	8	9	7	5	4	6
6	8	5	3	2	4	9	7	1
8	1	4	2	7	9	6	3	5
2	7	6	4	5	3	8	1	9
3	5	9	1	8	6	7	2	4
5	4	1	6	3	8	2	9	7
9	6	8	7	4	2	1	5	3
7	2	3	9	1	5	4	6	8

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TODAY'S FORECAST



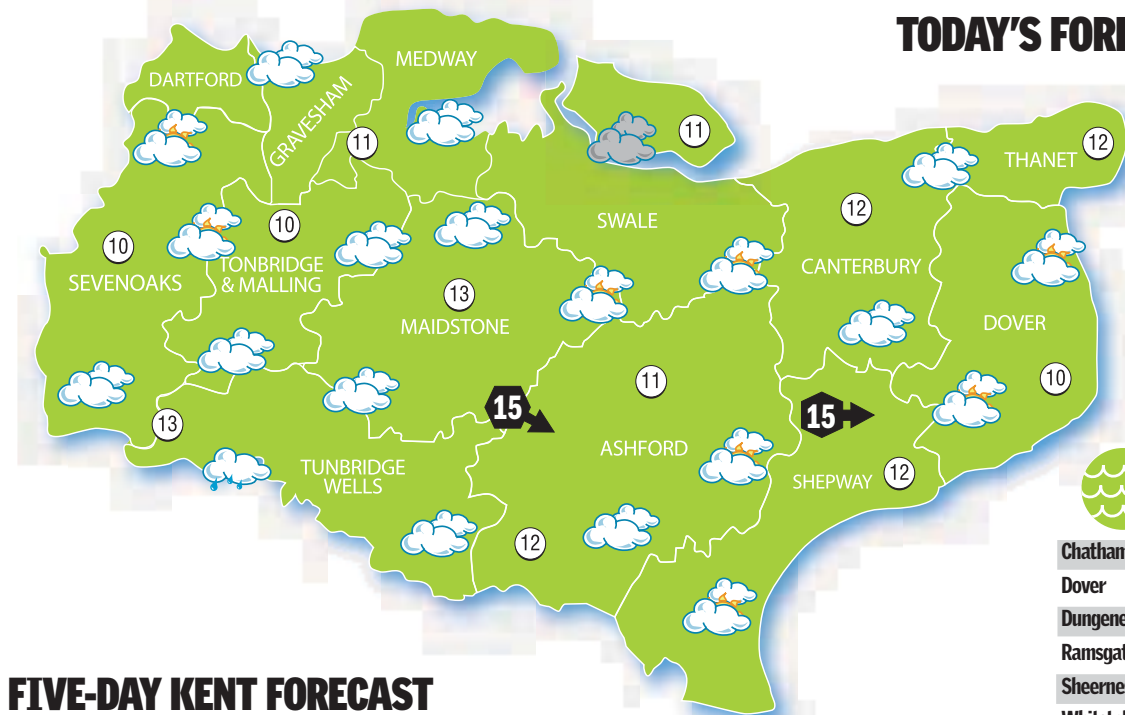
AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	9°C	Madrid	17°C
Athens	19°C	New York	21°C
Barcelona	14°C	Paris	13°C
Beijing	16°C	Rome	13°C
Bombay	36°C	Sydney	20°C
Cape Town	24°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	10°C	Tokyo	9°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	13°C
Hong Kong	26°C	Warsaw	16°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	15°C



KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Location	Day	Time	Height
Chatham	Saturday	11:14am	5.1m
Dover	Saturday	9:43am	5.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	9:23am	6.1m
Ramsgate	Saturday	10:13am	4.2m
Sheerness	Saturday	11:03am	4.9m
Whitstable	Saturday	11:10am	4.6m
Chatham	Sunday	12:00pm	5.4m
Dover	Sunday	10:24am	5.8m
Dungeness	Sunday	10:12am	6.5m
Ramsgate	Sunday	10:54am	4.4m
Sheerness	Sunday	11:49am	5.2m
Whitstable	Sunday	12:00pm	4.8m



FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	14°C	12°C	14°C	13°C	12°C
Canterbury	15°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	10°C
Chatham	13°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C
Dartford	15°C	13°C	14°C	13°C	12°C
Dover	13°C	10°C	11°C	11°C	10°C
Faversham	13°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C
Folkestone	13°C	10°C	11°C	11°C	10°C
Gillingham	13°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C
Gravesend	15°C	13°C	14°C	13°C	12°C
Maidstone	15°C	13°C	13°C	14°C	12°C
Ramsgate	15°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	10°C
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Sevenoaks	13°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	11°C
Sittingbourne	13°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C
Tonbridge	14°C	12°C	13°C	14°C	13°C
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Dragon-training tale scales new heights in animation

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

ALMOST 10 years since Shrek emitted his first pungent burp, DreamWorks Animation soars to dizzying heights with a brilliantly-executed and deeply-touching story of one boy's friendship with a supposedly fearsome dragon.

Madagascar and Kung Fu Panda both lacked spark, but How To Train Your Dragon has invention and emotion in abundance, and will delight audiences of all ages with its lush visuals and smart script based on the book by Cressida Cowell.

Screening in 3D in selected cinemas and traditional 2D everywhere else, Dean DeBlois and Chris Sanders' fantasy combines a traditional rites of passage drama with breathtaking action and uproarious comedy.

The eye-popping format works especially well during the vertiginous flying sequences – you feel like you can almost reach out and touch the clouds as human and beast soar through the air in perfect harmony.

The unlikely hero is a weedy Viking called Hiccup, who has been told his whole life that dragons are evil beasts that would eat a man as soon as look at him.

Consequently, Hiccup and the other children in the village grow up with a hatred of the creatures and dream of training for battle alongside their warrior fathers.

Alas, Hiccup is too feeble and his father, tribe leader Stoick, protects the youngster from harm by entrusting him to the care of burly blacksmith, Gobber.

"One day I'll get out there, because around here, killing a dragon is everything," bemoans Hiccup.

Gobber convinces Stoick that dragon training might give the boy some backbone.



EMOTIONAL: Hiccup the Viking forms a touching bond with Toothless the dragon after nursing him back to health

So Hiccup joins feisty Astrid, Fishlegs, Snotlout and the twins Ruffnut and Tuffnut in the ring, where they learn to cope with all manner of fire-breathing creatures.

But unbeknown to the other recruits, Hiccup has befriended an injured dragon – a mysterious Night Fury – and has nursed the creature back to health and even nicknamed him Toothless. As the bond between animal and boy deepens, Hiccup questions everything he has ever been told.

How To Train Your Dragon is a wonderful adventure for the entire family, underpinned by the bond between Hiccup and Toothless that develops organically as the two characters become accustomed to each other.

The freedom that the boy feels in the sky contrasts with his suffocation on terra firma.

Vocal performances are strong.

Actor Jay Baruchel milks every ounce of sympathy for young Hiccup as he tries to make everyone happy and become the Viking

that Stoick wants him to be. When Stoick inevitably discovers his son's betrayal and angrily disowns him – "You're not a Viking, you're not my son!" – there's a genuine lump in our throats, which we soon swallow when the script delivers yet another belly laugh before setting up the rousing finale.

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON Certificate PG



VIEW THIS PREVIEW



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YOUR TV REVIEW ASK THE CHANCELLORS: Channel 4, Thursday

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

TELEVISION history is set to be made over the next few weeks with live election debates between the three main party leaders.

The deal was negotiated between the big three broadcasters, the BBC, ITV and Sky. However, not to be outdone, Channel 4 neatly added its own footnote by coming up with an exclusive Chancellors' Debate.

Not only was this a stroke of genius, considering how much of a key role the economy is going to play in voters' minds, but there were no rules to stifle it.

Unlike the prime ministerial debates, there were no pre-arranged time limits and the current incumbent Alistair Darling, together with his Tory and Lib Dem counterparts George Osborne and Vince Cable, were free to speak at length.

There was no blood on the carpet from a hoped-for knockout blow, but if anything, this

proved a positive advert for politics. It was polite, robust, succinct and engaging in equal measure and no doubt gave everyone extra food for thought come the expected May 6 polling day.

The Conservatives' Osborne probably had the most to lose as one of the perceived weakest links on the party's front bench, and was caught out on how he would reconcile proposed tax cuts with reducing the deficit.

But he was resolute about the Tories' latest policy decision, announced earlier that day, on reversing part of Labour's proposed national insurance rise, saying it would be bad for business and jobs.

Alistair Darling lost some credibility in suggesting that lower unemployment might avoid deep cuts in public spending, but challenged Osborne over narrowing tax credits.

The Lib Dems' Vince Cable received the most rounds of applause by reminding the audience he correctly predicted the economic meltdown and denounced the other two par-



GOOD-NATURED: Chancellor Alistair Darling debates the economy with Vince Cable and George Osborne

ties for being beholden to either militant unions or rich non-doms.

But he was inaccurate in his statement that every former building society had collapsed in the crisis, which those in the former Abbey National offices would take issue with.

But none of the more heated exchanges threatened to boil over and the three suited

men almost seemed to enjoy the novelty of standing behind their lecterns.

Krishnan Guru-Murthy did a competent job as the show's anchor and it was on the whole good-natured and informative, exactly what television executives should strive to achieve, rather than the mud-slinging and insult-throwing we unfortunately expect.

yourcompetition

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The closing date is April 25, 2010.

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Question: What is a baby koala called?

a) Puppy b) Joey c) Kitten

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If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



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yourmusic

Ray joins all-star line-up at festival



MAIN SUPPORT: Former Kinks frontman Ray Davies joins Bob Dylan at the Hop Farm

■ BY JON COATES

FORMER Kinks frontman Ray Davies is the latest big name to be added to the bill of the Hop Farm Festival.

The singer-songwriter will be the main support to headliner Bob Dylan at the Paddock Wood event on Saturday, July 3.

Davies will head for the Hop Farm a week after playing Glastonbury Festival's pyramid stage.

The 65-year-old, who embarked on a successful solo career in the mid-90s and was awarded a CBE by the Queen for services to music in 2004, is best known for the classic hits he penned for The Kinks, including You Really Got Me, All Day and All of the Night, Sunny Afternoon and Waterloo Sunset.

English indie rock band The Magic Numbers and Northern Irish singer-songwriter Foy Vance have also been added to the Saturday bill of the festival.

The Magic Numbers, two brothers and two sisters who met at a Catholic school in Middlesex, have released two albums and supported Travis and Snow Patrol on tour.

Foy Vance, 35, from Bangor, County Down, released debut album Hope in 2007 and has a live EP out now of a performance with Ulster Orchestra at the Waterfront in Belfast.

The Saturday line-up now reads Bob Dylan, Ray Davies, Mumford & Sons, Seasick Steve, Pete Doherty, Laura Marling, The Magic Numbers, and Foy Vance.

The site off the A228 near Paddock Wood will open at 6pm on Friday, July 2, for anyone wanting to camp. There will be a small bill on the Friday night, which is yet to be announced.

Tickets, which cost £65 for the Saturday event, including car parking, and another £25 for the two nights camping and Friday bill, are on sale online at www.hopfarmfestival.com.

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Funk rockers Tokyo Jo



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- 2 Craig Sheridan - Winter Sunn
- 3 CWB - Footsteps (from Canterbury)
- 4 Rogues Down - Poison Arrow (from Deal)
- 5 I.R.I.S - Thicker Than Water (from Deal)

The site will open for day ticket holders at 11am on the Saturday, with Dylan due to finish his headline set at 11.30pm.

Festival organiser Vince Power said: "For the third year there will be no sponsorship and branding, and no VIP area. We are trying to put the emphasis on the music."

Another event is being planned for Sunday, July 4, which will have a different type of bill. The line-up for this is due to be announced later this month.



EYE TO EYE: A polar bear gets up close and person with intrepid guests on the Tundra Buggy near Churchill in northern Canada

yourgetaways

We're going on a bear hunt in frozen wastes of Canada

■ BY EMILY BEAMENT

AFTER studying us carefully for several minutes to see if we might make a suitably tasty lunch, the giant bear finally lost interest in us, turned, and headed off across the snow.

"In the bear world, the bigger the bum, the better," explained our expert guide Patrick Rousseau.

It seems colder winters keep the ice frozen for longer periods, enabling them to eat more seals as the weather turns colder.

We're out on the tundra near Churchill, a village in northern Canada about 600 miles north of Winnipeg, and about 600 miles south of the Arctic Circle. It calls itself the polar bear capital of the world, and with good reason.

Getting here isn't easy. After an eight-hour flight into Winnipeg, a 20-seater plane takes you north over frozen wastes for another two hours.

Barely 1,000 people live in Churchill, but each autumn, hundreds of polar bears gather here on the shores of Hudson Bay.

It is not just their bottoms that are big. Polar bears are the world's largest carnivore found on land, and everything from their dinner-plate sized feet, to their highly-sensitive black noses, is absolutely enormous.

Males weigh 1,600lbs or more, but only when a polar bear rears up on its hind legs to look you in the eye do you realise how powerful and fearsome they are.

Luckily we were inside a 'tundra buggy' – a large, solid vehicle on six-foot-high tractor wheels once used to practise the invasion of Russia.

You can get a sense of the scale of the vast, cold wilderness on a heli-

FACT FILE: CANADA

Time difference	-3.5 to -8 hours (GMT)
Capital	Ottawa
Language	English and French
Population	34 million
Currency	Canadian dollars

Emily Beament travelled on 13-day Polar Bear adventure with Thomas Cook Tours and Canadian Tourism Commission, from £4,295. The package includes Air Canada international flights, door-to-door pick-up for travellers in the South East and regional connecting flights. Thomas Cook Tours reservations: 0844 871 5170 and www.thomascooktours.com. Further information is available on www.canadatourism.com.



copter trip, from which we spotted bears and other wildlife, including moose.

With Patrick, who worked as a wildlife biologist for the Canadian National Park Service for 34 years, sharing his knowledge, we gained a great insight into the life of bears.

Although they can look cute, they are 10 feet tall on their hind legs, and easily able to peek in through our driver's window.

One bear peered at us through the front windscreen, allowing us to see how they can wiggle their noses – which we were told can smell through six feet of ice, and pick up the scent of a seal five miles away.

And as for those big bums, Patrick told us the ice had lasted longer than normal in the summer, allowing them more time to feed, and the bears were in better shape than they have been for some time.

Life is more comfortable for the

human out-of-towners; we were chauffeured around the town in an old school bus for a history tour, a visit to the Eskimo Museum and a talk by local photographer and wildlife expert Mike Macri.

While we were out on the tundra all day – with picnic lunches on the buggy – hearty breakfasts and dinners were provided in town at Gypsy's restaurant, and there was even time to brave the cold for a bit of shopping in the gift shops.

Polar bears are not the only wildlife seen in Churchill, which is also home to Arctic and red foxes, birds such as ptarmigan and, in summer, beluga whales who venture up the Churchill river. You might even see the Northern Lights.

However, in the autumn, it is all about the bears, and I will never forget coming face-to-face with the most famous inhabitant of the increasingly-fragile Arctic.

MONEY MATTERS

A Newton's cradle with five metal spheres. The central sphere is in motion, having just struck or about to strike the others. The spheres are replaced by pound sterling symbols (£). The background is a dark blue gradient.

Be clear about your finances

Inside your pull-out supplement

- Help your tenants cut their costs
- Check your lease to avoid repair bills
- Passing on the business baton
- Your word is your bond – or is it?
- Getting the best car deal after Scrappage
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All tenants are looking for value for money and quality of service, and if landlords don't do their best to retain their loyalty, occupiers are likely to vote with their feet and move. In these difficult times we all need to make that extra effort to retain our core business.

As owners and managers of substantial business parks in the UK and the USA, we have considerable buying power. However, all landlords can make savings for their tenants. They should meet all their contractors to review existing contract terms, frequency of service, explore bulk-buying opportunities and renegotiate contractor profit margins. They should also research the best utility contracts on the market, which can vary considerably.

We have done all this at Kings Hill and renewed our contracts early to secure the best possible prices.

This saving can have a huge impact on businesses. It could mean that redundancies don't have to be made because the savings can cover salaries. It could free up funds for researching new markets or simply mean that businesses can stay afloat.

Responsible landlords will probably already have sought better deals for their 2010 service charge budgets. However, those occupiers who

Andrew Blevins, managing director of Kings Hill developer Liberty Property Trust UK Ltd, explains how landlords can help occupiers beat the recession by securing reduced service charges



SAVINGS: Liberty Property Trust at Kings Hill have reviewed their service contracts for 2010

feel that the service charges they are paying are too high should contact their landlord to see if reductions can be made in the 2011 budget rounds.

Typically, service charges are payable quarterly, with a reconciliation after year-end resulting in further payment or rebate. To ensure that the year-end resolution is dealt with fairly, tenants could seek the advice of a chartered surveyor who would assess the fair-

ness of the charges, ensure that the tenants are receiving what they are paying for and ensure the quality of provision.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors website provides guidance to landlords to ensure good practice prevails. Visit www.rics.org

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Richard Metcalfe of Metcalfe Stanley Hicks chartered building surveyors, warns businesses they may find themselves seriously out of pocket if they neglect a little-understood area of their leases



FOREWARNED: Chartered building surveyor Richard Metcalfe could save you money

Don't get landed with repair bill

EVERYBODY who leases a commercial property needs to understand that unless you take appropriate steps before signing the lease, you will be responsible for repairing the property before you leave, regardless of its condition when you first occupy it.

Failing to understand the terms of their lease and its obligations can leave many businesses facing substantial and unwelcome

costs at the end of their term. In the vast majority of cases it is the responsibility of the outgoing leaseholder to repair and reinstate the property before the end of the lease. In the absence of this, the leaseholder must compensate the landlord.

Getting the work done can be disruptive to the leaseholder's business and may force them to vacate early. Negotiating a financial sum with the landlord can be difficult and may involve substantial legal costs.

Chartered building surveyors work closely with legal advisors to negotiate the pitfalls of dilapidations, ensuring that their clients, be

they landlords or leaseholders, respectively maximise their gains or minimise their losses when buildings are being vacated.

Too often businesses believe that, as they are leasing rather than purchasing, there's no need for a building survey. This is a dangerous misconception and before signing any commercial lease you must obtain proper professional advice and quantify your liabilities.

As a lease nears its end, landlords also need to take appropriate legal advice and consult a chartered building surveyor. A Schedule of Dilapidations must be prepared and served on the lessee in good time and in sufficient detail

by an experienced chartered building surveyor practitioner.

If you are the prospective leaseholder the message is – forewarned is forearmed – consult your chartered building surveyor before you sign the lease, and again in the last year of the lease, so that you may plan your effective exit.

The key is not waiting until you receive a Schedule of Dilapidations from your landlord.

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Onward and

For many businesses at the moment, survival is the name of the game, but when the upturn comes the issue of succession will once again return to the forefront of many owners' minds. **Paul Saunders**, managing partner of Clydesdale Bank for Kent, believes that the sooner you start planning, the better the chances of a successful exit and succession



COMPANY owners often leave it too late when it comes to succession planning, increasing the potential for internal wrangling and disputes which can cause people to take their eyes off what's important – running the business.

At the heart of the problem lies the fact that, for many owners, there's seldom enough time to accomplish day-to-day tasks, let alone plan for something that could be years away. So, when should you start succession planning? For many, it's when they have successfully navigated the start-up phase and

are approaching maturity, which is a time when the business is secure enough to start planning a succession and, ultimately, an exit. Once the decision has been made, the business owner needs to carry through the process demonstrating that this is all about the long-term wellbeing of the organisation and its workforce.

If employees have any uncertainty over the future direction of the business, then they will develop their own exit strategy and with it the risk that the best will fly the nest. At best this would hinder the exit, at worst scupper the business. So clear communication with everybody concerned is vital.

A fundamental issue is: who should succeed? And if, after auditing the firm's own talent pool and mapping that against key

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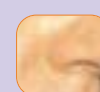
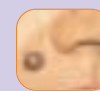
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upward as baton passes

positions, the right person, or persons, aren't to be found within the business, then the company needs to recruit them. Recruiting good people always pays dividends and is a key area of importance in succession planning.

Before succession, it's all about transition, and there's a need to actively develop longer-term successors by ensuring their careers progress and the range of work experiences that they, and the business, need for the future.

Fostering a corporate culture, which develops its workforce by sharing key skills, experiences and values, is important for any organisation. Investing time in developing family members, key employees, and management team members, and allowing them to exercise authority and control, will be vital to a successful succession.

With a transition plan and the right people in place, the actual task of selecting a successor becomes much easier. By empowering key members of the business, the selection process is simplified and the owners' exit options are broadened.

Once the decision as to who will succeed is made, the key task for the owner is communicating that plan, not just to the workforce, but beyond the business to customers, suppliers and advisers. This communication gives the successor and their colleagues a clear understanding of the path to the future and the different roles they are going to play in the journey. It also means everyone can focus on setting future goals and objectives for themselves and, importantly, the business.

An owner exiting a business also has signif-

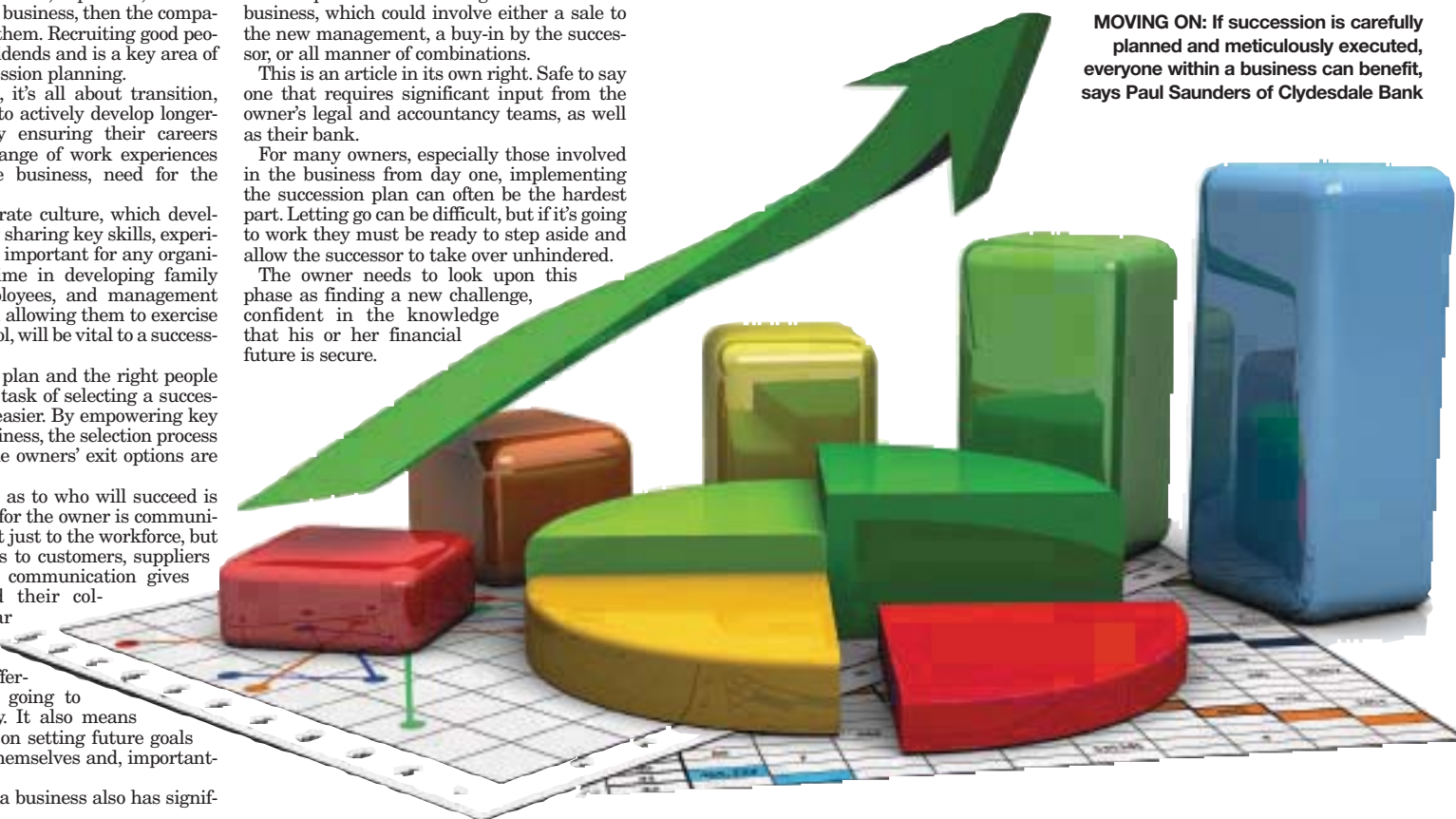
icant implications for the legal structure of a business, which could involve either a sale to the new management, a buy-in by the successor, or all manner of combinations.

This is an article in its own right. Safe to say one that requires significant input from the owner's legal and accountancy teams, as well as their bank.

For many owners, especially those involved in the business from day one, implementing the succession plan can often be the hardest part. Letting go can be difficult, but if it's going to work they must be ready to step aside and allow the successor to take over unhindered.

The owner needs to look upon this phase as finding a new challenge, confident in the knowledge that his or her financial future is secure.

MOVING ON: If succession is carefully planned and meticulously executed, everyone within a business can benefit, says Paul Saunders of Clydesdale Bank



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When trust is

Do you need a written contract to have a legally binding deal? The answer may surprise you, explains **Henar Dyson**, of Tunbridge Wells-based law firm Thomson Snell & Passmore

WHEN is a deal not a deal? Does a handshake or the undertaking of work represent a contract? Or do both sides need to have something in writing, signed and sealed, before it's official?

It's a thorny topic and one which continues to spark debate.

A recent article in The Times newspaper considered whether trust between contracting parties is an effective substitute for a contract.

The reality is that the law will imply contractual terms into any business arrangement, whether or not there is a written document.

There are also circumstances where a written contract is a legal requirement. The question, then, is whether parties can dispense with a fully-negotiated contract, where there is mutual trust.

Even lawyers will agree that contracts can take on a life of their own and become unwieldy. Word processing technology, an explosion of regulation in some areas and an increasingly litigious business environment have been largely responsible for this.

But is a negotiated contract a bad thing? There are good reasons for having one:

- It records what the parties have agreed, helping to avoid future argument;
- It apportions risk, making clear who pays if something goes wrong; and
- It will iron out the uncertainties of the general law position.

This said, there are obvious downsides to an overly-prescriptive contract. The costs of negotiation and dispute resolution can be huge. No contract can legislate for every eventuality, and this can lead to an unexpected result in court if an argument arises over circumstances that are not catered for in the contract.

International contracts present additional difficulties, where lawyers from different legal cultures try to devise a universal legal language. Also, the process of negotiation can result in a loss of trust between the parties.

Why contracts are necessary

Undoubtedly, no business arrangement can succeed without the parties trusting each other. In most cases, nor will it without a contract. There are many reasons for this:

- The basic reasons for negotiating a contract are still valid. This is not a question of lack of trust, but of practicality;
- It takes time to build up the necessary degree of trust, far more time than it takes to negotiate a balanced contract;

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simply not enough...



IT'S A DEAL: A handshake may suffice in smaller organisations, but where a high-value job is at stake, draw up a contract

- Where the power of the parties is mismatched, a negotiated contract will help the weaker party;
- High-level management does not have the time or necessarily the ability to resolve all disputes;
- Shareholders would be unlikely to support the company if they knew how potentially exposed it was.

Whilst contracts are still necessary, the level of detail in them is not always beneficial and

there are circumstances where this can and should be controlled.

For regular arrangements between the same parties, contracts can set out general principles, but need not be overly prescriptive. It is not uncommon for businesses to operate in this way.

For one-off arrangements or very high value transactions, this is not appropriate. The risks and the 'unknowns' are too high and too many. Consider also a smaller organisation, where

management knows and trusts its own staff. In those organisations, there may be scope for trust to replace a negotiated contract. In larger organisations, this is not feasible.

The production of an effective contract need not be time-consuming if clients agree terms before engaging lawyers and set a sensible timetable for concluding negotiations. The mark of a well-negotiated contract is that everyone sleeps well and the contract lives in a drawer, never to be seen again.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Victory Pub at the Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free glass of wine or a pint with any main course

■ Stone Media Print in Ashford is offering a 2ftx8ft vinyl banner in full colour for £24.99 plus vat

■ Baileys Nissan in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all servicing

■ Old Sawmills Furniture in Ashford is offering an oak computer desk and chair promotion various sizes, styles and leather colours, plus free bankers lamp for £1,295

■ McCarthys Interiors in Broadstairs is offering 20 per cent off furniture, lighting, mirrors and home accessories

■ KOS Media offer, save £30 on the leader MD Electronic Typewriter only £169.99

■ Robins and Day Motors in Canterbury are offering MOTs from £29.99, or service and MOT from £119.99

■ Lexterten Furniture in Westgate on Sea, Thanet, will take £200 off every £1,000 spent on home office furniture

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New wheel deals roll in as Scrappage is crushed

By **STEVE LOADER**

SCRAPPAGE may be dead, but keen new car deals live on in a much changed motor trade.

Half of the £2,000-a-time Scrappage grant for new car buyers part exchanging a 10-year-old (or more) banger came from car makers and dealers – some even threw in more cash to sweeten a deal.

It has made even the most conservative car buyer realise that list price didn't have to mean final price and it was worth haggling, especially with dealers just happy to survive the economic downturn.

Scrappage has also affected the used car market, because many so-called gas-guzzling bangers the Government hoped to take off the road were well cared for family motors with plenty of life in them.

Lots of real bangers are still out there, because their cash-strapped owners just can't afford to trade up at all – used or new.

Meanwhile, the cars that should never have gone to the scrapper – and dealers can tell heartbreaking stories of part-exchange Scrappage cars too young to die – were denied a new lease of life and the would-be buyers have been forced to move upwards in the used car market.



TEMPTING DEALS: Chevrolet's new Spark city car offers big car capacity within compact dimensions

This in turn has exacerbated a chronic shortage of used cars now, because fewer new cars were sold once recession loomed three or four years ago.

Prices have soared as a result and new cars start to look better value, especially when certain car makers are happy to 'buy' sales and market share with keen deals and low-rate finance just to keep their plants turning over.

Buyers may also be tempted because they

have cash earning little in a bank account, which could drive a deal on a new car instead. Before taking the plunge though, here are some do's and don'ts:

Don't be afraid to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or further discounts on extras.

Don't buy an unpopular engine or trim combination or a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago – it might be just as thirsty

as your old car and will depreciate badly.

Do pick a model that saves fuel, insurance, road tax and depreciation – it won't get any easier out there.

Don't go for a knee-jerk disposal. A new car might still be expensive, even against running your gas-guzzler for the next three years.

Don't be blinded by tax-exempt diesel eco models – check price, running costs and green credentials against the standard version.

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Price of £6,945 relates to Spark 1.0. Vehicle shown is Spark 1.2 LT. Vehicle shown features metallic paint available at extra cost of £365. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures MPG (Litres/100 km). Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO₂ Emissions 119 g/km.

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TAKE CONTROL: Driving more economically can add to the savings from eco-friendly models like the Vauxhall Insignia ecoFLEX, left, and new MultiAir version of the sporty Alfa Romeo MiTo.

Smarter driving – better saving

DOWNSIZING to a more fuel and tax-efficient car must be just part of your recession-busting motoring plan.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning, and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car for short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones. Short trips also mean more servicing and engine wear. A moped or motorcycle might be a better option. If you must drive, follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off-peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, park and ride

bus schemes or other public transport.

- Have your vehicle serviced regularly.

Neglected engines waste at least 10 per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

- Check your tyres. Under-inflated tyres wear faster, waste fuel, are dangerous and contribute to a growing environmental problem. Check tyre pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save and stay legal.

Feather the throttle at cruising speed – 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.

- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed

to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too, so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low-sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and with lower emissions.

- Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

- **For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community.**

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Models shown have optional metallic paint available at an additional cost of £295. Prices shown are available on selected Retailer stock only, whilst stocks last and cannot be applied in conjunction with any other offer. *£2000 Government Scrappage Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage incentive criteria. The Government Scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 31.03.09 when traded in against a new car subject to conditions. All offers available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offers may not apply to all Retailer stocks. Offers available at participating retailers only. UK, excluded vehicles only. *Incl. £2000 government allowance.

Motoring myths shattered

By **STEVE LOADER**

DON'T be suckered by costly motoring myths, says leading company car operator Lex Autolease.

The company runs some 300,000 vehicles for UK companies and has gathered driver feedback showing many bad habits derived from popular myths. The Lex myths hitlist includes:

- **Premium fuel is good for your car now and again**

It is only suitable for high performance cars – the higher cost is repaid by better mpg. Drivers using non-performance cars should stick to ordinary unleaded and diesel.

Another myth suggests supermarket fuel is poorer quality than that from oil companies' forecourts, but they often come from the same source, so you're paying more for the brand and any additives.

- **It's best to fit your new tyres to the front axle**

Actually, they should be fitted to the rear. More grip on the rear axle improves stability on slippery roads and could prevent a spin.

Drivers are also more used to worn tyres on the front, because most modern cars are front-wheel-drive and wear front treads faster than the rears. Switching part-worn rears to the front maintains a familiar balance.

- **Allow the car to warm up before driving off**

The engine will warm up faster, use less fuel and pump out less CO2 if you drive off immediately, rather than leave it to idle for a while. In winter, this also helps the car heater warm faster, though windscreens must be fully defrosted before setting off.

- **Running the tank near to empty helps to clean it**

Fuel tanks do not self-clean. It is more likely that you will misjudge your next fill up and risk seizing the engine or other components; driving with little or no fuel can be almost as damaging to a vehicle as putting in the wrong fuel. Fill up as quick-



HIT AND MYTH: The big-selling British-built Qashqai has killed Nissan's old reputation for boring cars

ly as possible when your warning light appears.

- **Filling up slows down your car**

Partially true. A heavy fuel load impacts upon fuel efficiency and braking distances, but acceleration and top speed is barely compromised by a full tank.

- **No-claims protection insurance protects my premium if I have a crash**

Standard insurances only protect the discount you would have received at the end of a claims-free year. If you have a

claim, insurance companies are liable to increase your overall premium, despite having a no-claims protection policy – you are now a classed as an increased insurance risk. Admittedly, the company has a vested interest in the final point:

- **Leasing is more expensive than buying**

Many businesses and motorists fail to properly calculate the true cost of ownership. List price alone is a red herring and ignores true running costs: finance, depreciation, maintenance and insurance. All such costs can be better captured and budgeted through a lease deal.

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MOTORS NEWS



Saab is bjorn again by Dutch saviours Spyker

REPORTS of Saab's rescue from shut-down had been long on Abba-esque 'Bjorn again' headlines and short on how the brand would advance in its new partnership with Dutch supercar maker Spyker.

But production has re-started at Saab's Trollhattan plant and the first vehicle off the line was an all-new 9-5 model; UK order books are open with prices from £26,495 with a generous standard spec. It was followed by a 9-3 Convertible – the other model tipped for a crucial role in the Saab revival.



Peugeot lion ready to go hunting for Audi TT

PEUGEOT launches its stunning new RCZ sports car in May, to take on yet undercut Audi's TT sports car icon.

It is a dream car at a near everyday price, selling in the UK for just £20,450 with lots of kit – Audi's cheapest TT is £6,000 more with rather less standard equipment. A classy interior highlights how far Peugeot's cabin trimming has advanced recently and the RCZ also draws attention to the French lion brand's ambitions to scale global motor rankings over the next few years.



New city car receives A1 for effort and style

AUDI is opening order books in May for its compact yet sleek and sporty three-door A1, targeting premium city car buyers.

Priced from £13,000, it comes with alloys, air con and electronic stability control, highlighting that people still want image and comfort even when downsizing. The A1 will be offered with petrol and diesel powertrains and is claimed to carry four people and their luggage.

However, it has to be more profitable for Audi than the innovative, but loss-making A2 of a decade ago.



COST CUTTER: Volvo's DRIVE offers low emissions and the Swedish firm's Start/Stop system which cuts the engine at lights or slow traffic and then fires up as the driver moves off

Start/Stop but it's all go with Volvo's eco saloon

ROAD TEST VOLVO S40 DRIVE

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

aerodynamics and tweaked powertrains and Volvo says it has even reviewed and cut energy used in production and recycling of its cars.

For an extra £250 on the S40 saloon line-up you can also specify the Swedes' Start/Stop system, which cuts the engine at the lights or when making slow progress in traffic and then smoothly fires it up again as the driver makes to move off – no thought is required.

Official figures show the system can boost average fuel use by as much as 10mpg above the standard DRIVE equivalent, which already delivers an impressive 62.8; the marque does not now bother with a 'standard trim' 1.6 diesel, which is a) as things should be now and b) stops motoring hacks highlighting how much a 'greener' model costs compared with a standard car. Start/Stop also knocks emissions back from 119g/km of CO2 to 104.

Rather than a hair shirt option, the DRIVE is a highly flexible family car and a driving pleasure too, despite revisions to the 108bhp diesel/six-speed gearbox powertrain and low rolling resistance tyres.

It even looks good, with Volvo's now distinctive scalloped rear wings and some smoothed alloys that further aid aerodynamics.



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What Car? magazine has given the new Superb Estate an excellent write-up in its first review, calling the car "big, comfortable, plush and fine value".

The magazine was particularly impressed by the value-for-money offered by the Superb Estate, saying it's, "cracking value and undercuts the equivalent Mondeo Estate by thousands."



Used Car Section

Skoda Octavia 2.0 T FSI vRS 5-Dr Hatchback Mar 2006

Black Metallic 43,200 miles * Manual Petrol £9,795

Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Satin Grey Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 25,300 miles. £8,795

Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback Jan 2008

Beige Metallic 24,700 miles * Manual Diesel £7,995

Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Ambiente (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate Feb 2007

Brilliant Silver Metallic 22,473 miles * Automatic Petrol £7,495

Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback Dec 2007

Brilliant Silver Metallic 11,572 miles * Manual Petrol £6,995

Skoda Fabia 1.4 Elegance (100 HP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 41,628 miles. £6,795

Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback Dec 2007

Beige Metallic 25,400 miles * Manual Petrol £6,795

Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Comfort (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate Feb 2004

Graphite Grey Metallic 48,500 miles * Automatic Petrol £4,995

Skoda Fabia 1.4 Classic 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Red with a Black Cloth interior, 80,100 miles. £3,295

Skoda Octavia 1.4 Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Silver Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 79,450 miles. £2,995

Other Makes
BMW 1 Series 1.6 116i ES 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Jet Black with a Black Cloth interior, 40,550 miles. £9,795

SEAT Toledo 1.9 TDI PD Stylance 5-Door Hatchback Sep 2006

Nayara Blue Metallic 20,695 miles * Manual Diesel £8,495

Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Club 16v 5-Door Hatchback Dec 2006

Silver Lightning Metallic 33,364 miles * Manual Petrol £6,995

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 16v Design 5-Door Estate Jan 2005

Metro Blue Metallic 29,700 miles * Automatic Petrol £6,495

SEAT Alhambra 1.9 TDI PD SE (130 BHP) 5-Door MPV Nov 2003

Pearl Blue Metallic 92,500 miles * Manual Diesel £6,295

SEAT Ibiza 1.2 12v Reference Sport 3-Door Hatchback Apr 2007

Black Magic Metallic 40,055 miles * Manual Petrol £6,295

Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 DTi 16v Design 5-Door MPV

Finished in Moonland Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 38,900 miles. £5,495

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Life 16v 5-Door Hatchback Jan 2005

Metro Blue Metallic 67,500 miles * Automatic Petrol £4,995

Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.6 2-Door Cabriolet Jan 2004

Artic Steel Metallic 86,467 miles * Manual Petrol £4,495

Fiat Multipla 1.6 100 16v ELX 5-Door MPV

Finished in Antarctic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 68,900 miles. £4,995

Vauxhall Agila 1.0 Expression 5-Door Hatchback Aug 2006

Royal Blue Metallic 17,376 miles * Manual Petrol £4,295

Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 GL 75 BHP 5-Door Hatchback Mar 2002

Bright Red 39,350 miles * Manual Petrol £3,995

Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Colorado Red with a Black Cloth interior, 56,500 miles. £3,995

Renault Scenic 1.6 Expression + 5-Dr Hatchback Apr 2001

Norse Grey Metallic 71,500 miles * Automatic Petrol £2,795

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Westbrook Cars Super Deals

W 00	HONDA HRV 4WD 1.6 automatic 5 door estate finished in bronze, central locking, electric windows, CD stereo player, controls on steering wheel, electric mirrors, power assisted steering, twin airbags, black/blue cloth upholstery, Honda service history, alloy wheels, parcel shelf £3195.00
X 00	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 DTI ESTATE finished in silver, remote central locking, electric windows, remote mirrors, power assisted steering, twin airbags, Pioneer CD stereo with controls on steering wheel, air con, lots of service history, black cloth upholstery, rolled top parcel shelf, factory fitted roof rails £1695.00
X 01	NISSAN 1.0 MICRA S 3 door hatchback finished in blueish mauve, remote mirrors, power assisted steering, drivers airbag, 5 speed gear box, stereo, lots of Nissan service history, dark/light grey upholstery, parcel shelf £1995.00
Y 01	PEUGEOT 106 1.2 INDEPENDENCE 3 door hatchback finished in green, remote mirrors, stereo, drivers airbag 5 speed gear box, black/green upholstery, parcel shelf £1895.00
P 97	PEUGEOT 306 1.4 LX 5 door hatchback finished in blue, remote central locking, remote mirrors, electric windows, stereo, controls on steering wheel, drivers airbag, 5 speed gear box, parcel shelf, cloth upholstery, service history £1495.00
Y 01	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.4 S 3 door hatchback finished in blue, electric windows, electric mirrors, twin airbags, power assisted steering, 5 speed gear box, Kenwood CD stereo system, service history, black cloth upholstery, parcel shelf £2995.00
V 00	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4 S 3 door hatchback finished in green, electric windows, electric mirrors, electric sunroof, twin airbags, stereo, power assisted steering, cream cloth upholstery, full Volkswagen service history, alloy wheels, parcel shelf, front fog lamps £2995.00
Y 01	CHRYSLER 2.0 PT CRUISER LTD automatic finished in silver, remote central locking, electric mirrors, twin airbags, power assisted steering, CD stereo, cruise control, leather/suede interior, air con, alloy wheels, parcel shelf, front fog lamps £2995.00
X 00	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 SCENIC RT 16V 5 door hatchback finished in silver, remote central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric twin sun roofs, twin airbags, power assisted steering, stereo with controls on steering wheel, grey cloth upholstery, rear picnic tables, parcel shelf £2495.00
04 04	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 FEVER 3 door hatchback finished in metallic black, remote central locking, electric windows, remote mirrors, twin airbags, power assisted steering, Kenwood CD stereo system, controls on steering wheel, black/orange cloth upholstery, 02 racing alloy wheels, back roof spoiler, front fog lamps £3495.00
Y 01	ROVER 45 IMPRESSION 1.4 S 5 door hatchback finished in red, remote central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, drivers airbag, 5 speed gearbox, stereo, controls on steering wheel, power assisted steering, walnut dash, black upholstery, service history, alloy wheels, front fog lamps £1995.00
T 99	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 LS 8V 5 door hatchback finished in green, remote central locking, remote mirrors, electric windows, twin airbags, stereo controls on steering wheel, 5 speed gearbox, power assisted steering, sunroof, black cloth upholstery, full Vauxhall service history, parcel shelf £2295.00
Y 01	VOLKSWAGEN LUPO 1.0 E 3 door hatchback finished in black, remote mirrors, twin airbags, stereo, red/black cloth upholstery, 5 speed gearbox, power assisted steering, parcel shelf £2495.00
Y 01	PEUGEOT 106 1.2 INDEPENDENCE 3 door hatchback finished in silver, remote mirrors, drivers airbag, stereo, 5 speed gearbox, black cloth upholstery, parcel shelf £1995.00
T 99	FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC 3 door hatchback finished in silver, remote central locking, remote mirrors, drivers airbag, stereo, 5 speed gearbox, black/grey cloth upholstery, power assisted steering, front and rear fog lamps, alloy wheels, parcel shelf, loads of service history ... £1895.00
T 99	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 LS 8V automatic estate finished in blue, remote central locking, remote mirrors, electric windows, sun roof, drivers airbag, stereo, power assisted steering, blue/black cloth upholstery, rolled top parcel shelf, factory fitted roof rails, service history ... £1895.00
W 00	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 LS 16V 5 door hatchback finished in green, remote central locking, remote mirrors, power assisted steering, electric windows, twin airbags, CD stereo system with controls on steering wheel, 5 speed gearbox, air con, light grey cloth upholstery, parcel shelf, lots of service history £1995.00
53 03	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE 5 door hatchback finished in silver, remote central locking, keycard, electric mirrors, electric windows, twin airbags, electric sun roof, power assisted steering, CD stereo with controls on steering wheel, alloy wheels, air con, black cloth upholstery, parcel shelf £3995.00
W 00	FORD FOCUS 1.8 GHIA TD 5 door hatchback finished in blue, remote central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, drivers airbag, walnut dash, black cloth upholstery, air con, stereo, power assisted steering, alloy wheels, front fog lamps, parcel shelf £2895.00
P 97	JAGUAR 4.0 SOVEREIGN automatic finished in silver, remote alarm central locking, power assisted steering, driver and passenger airbags, electric windows, electric mirrors, memory seat controls, electric front seats, cruise control, stereo system, air con, rear and front heated screens, cream leather upholstery, service history, alloy wheels, front fog lamps £3995.00

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08 57 Dodge Avenger 2.0 CRD SE Inferno Red Crystal Pearlcoat Grey Cloth CD/MP3/DVD EFDM Air Con ESP 5000 miles £8,995
09 59 Dodge Caliber 2.0 SXT CVT Bright Silver Clearcoat Grey Leather CD EFDM Air Con Traction Alloys 100 miles £11,895
09 59 Dodge Caliber 2.0 SXT CVT Sunburst Orange Pearlcoat Grey Leather CD EFDM Air Con Traction Alloys 25 miles £11,895
09 59 Dodge Caliber 2.0 CRD SXT Inferno Red Crystal Pearlcoat Grey Leather CD EFDM Air Con ESP Alloys 25 miles £12,895
07 57 Dodge Nitro 3.7 SXT Auto Black Grey Leather Rear Parking Aid CD Multichanger Climatic Air Con Alloys 8,900 miles £12,995
08 08 Dodge Nitro 2.8 CRD SXT Inferno Red Crystal Pearlcoat Grey Leather Cruise-Rear Parking Aid CD Autochanger EFDM Roof Rails Air Con Front ESP Alloys 21400 miles £14,995
08 57 Dodge Nitro 2.8 CRD SXT Black Grey Leather Rear Parking Aid CD Autochanger EFDM Air Con Front ESP Alloys 23850 miles £14,995
09 58 Dodge Journey 2.0 CRD SXT Silver Steel Pearlcoat Grey Cloth Cruise-Reach Sat Nav Rear Backup Camera CD/MP3/DVD Tow Pack Privacy Glass EFDM Air Con ESP 12000 miles £15,495
08 58 Dodge Journey 2.0 CRD SXT Silver Steel Pearlcoat Grey Cloth Cruise Sat Nav CD IPod preparation Mg-Gig Sat Nav entertainment Climate Alloys 13500 miles £16,995

Chrysler

06 56 Chrysler PT Cruiser 2.4 Limited Auto Electric Blue Grey Leather Cruise Heated Seats Air Con Driver Electric Seats Traction Alloys 32000 miles £5,495
08 08 Chrysler Sebring 2.0 CRD Limited Bright Silver Grey Leather Driver/Passenger Heated Seats CD EFDM Air Con ESP Alloys 26600 miles £7,995
06 56 Chrysler PT Cruiser 2.4 Touring Cabrio Marine Blue Grey Cloth Cruise Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats CD Air Con Alloys Electric Folding Roof 14000 miles £7,995
06 56 Chrysler PT Cruiser 2.2 CRD Sunset Boulevard Black Grey Cloth Cruise CD Autochanger Air Con Driver Electric Seats Traction Alloys 29000 miles £8,495
08 08 Chrysler Sebring Cabrio 2.0 CRD Limited Brilliant Black Crystal Grey Leather Cruise Driver/Passenger Heated Seats Power Hood Air Con Electric Seats Alloys 21000 miles £12,995
06 56 Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 CRD Limited XS Magnesium Grey Leather Electric Cruise Driver/Passenger Heated Seats Sat Nav CD Autochanger/DVD Alloys 34700 miles £15,995
06 56 Chrysler Crossfire 3.2 SRT-6 Roadster Aero Blue Grey Leather/Suede Cruise Reach CD Air Con Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats Front ESP Alloys 7900 miles £16,995
07 57 Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 CRD Executive Brilliant Black Crystal Grey Leather Cruise Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats Rear Parking Aid CD Air Con Alloys 15800 miles £16,995
08 57 Chrysler 300C 3.0 V6 CRD LUX Saloon Brilliant Black Crystal Black Leather Cruise Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats Sat Nav Rear Parking Aid CD Sunroof Climate Alloys My-Gig entertainment GPS u-connect 23100 miles £17,995

08 57 Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 CRD Executive XS Brilliant Black Crystal Grey Leather Electric Cruise Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats Sat Nav Rear Parking Aid CD Autochanger/DVD Alloys 14900 miles £18,995
08 58 Chrysler 300C 3.0 V6 CRD Saloon Bright Silver Black Leather Cruise Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats Rear Parking Aid My-Gig entertainment U-Connect GPS CD Climate Alloys 7100 miles £18,995
09 59 Chrysler 300C 3.0 V6 CRD SRT Design Saloon Brilliant Black Crystal Black Leather Cruise Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats Full Screen Sat Nav Rear Parking Aid My-Gig Entertainment CD/MP3/DVD Climate Alloys 4000 miles £24,995

Jeep

08 08 Jeep Patriot 2.4 Sport Bright Silver Clearcoat Grey Cloth CD/MP3 EFDM Roof Rails Air Con ESP Alloys 16600 miles £11,495
07 56 Jeep Cherokee 2.8 CRD Limited Black Clearcoat Grey Leather Cruise Sat Nav CD Roof Rails Climate Driver/Passenger Heated Electric Seats Alloys 33000 miles £12,995
08 08 Jeep Compass 2.0 CRD Limited Inferno Red Black Leather Driver/Passenger Heated Seats Musicgate EFDM Roof Rails Air Con ESP Alloys 14500 miles £12,995
07 07 Jeep Cherokee 2.8 CRD Limited Bright Silver Clearcoat Light Slate Grey Leather Cruise Driver/Passenger Heated Seats Sat Nav CD Rear Wash/Wipe ESR Roof Rails Air Con Climate Driver/Passenger Electric Seats ESP Alloys 25900 miles £13,495
05 05 Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD Limited Light Khaki Clearcoat Taupe Leather Cruise Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats Full Screen Sat Nav Rear Parking Aid CD Autochanger Climate Alloys 49930 miles £14,495
06 56 Jeep Commander 3.0 V6 CRD Limited Mineral Grey Beige Leather Cruise Full Screen Sat Nav Front/Rear Parking Aid 6 CD Autochanger DVD Power Sunroof Climate ESP Alloys 20450 miles £16,995
07 07 Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD Limited Brilliant Black Crystal Grey Leather Cruise Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats Front/Rear Parking Aid CD Roof Rails Air Con ESP Alloys 34000 miles £16,995
07 57 Jeep Commander 3.0 V6 CRD Limited Bright Silver Clearcoat Beige Leather Cruise Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats Full Screen Sat Nav Front/Rear Parking Aid 6 CD DVD Command-View With Dual Skylights Sunroof Climate Alloys 33300 miles £17,995
07 07 Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD Overland Brilliant Black Crystal Medium Slate Grey Part Leather Cruise Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats Sat Nav Front/Rear Parking Aid CD Climate Alloys 22700 miles £18,995
08 08 Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD Overland Diesel Auto Brilliant Black Grey Leather Cruise Control Electric heated front seats Sat Nav Front and Rear Parking Aid Rear DVD 28950 miles £22,995

Other Makes

03 53 Lexus IS 200 2.0 SE Limited Auto Platinum Ice Dark Blue Velour Leather Heated Front Seats CD ESR EFM Climate Alloys 44500 miles £6,495
08 08 Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V 70 BHP 5-Dr Hatchback Satin Grey Grey Wave Cloth CD/MP3 Air Con Alloys 16500 miles £7,495
08 57 SEAT Altea 1.9 TDI DPF Styleline DSG 5dr MPV Black Magic Grey Cloth Privacy Glass Climate 11500 miles £11,495

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Notes for all of our Auctions

Although entries are accepted up to 7.00pm on Sunday 2nd May, we would strongly advise you, where possible, to book your vehicles in as early as possible, either by phone, email, or our new instant pre-booking service available on the internet to get maximum coverage. Our website has over 1000 visits each day, and as well as a description of your vehicle, we can now include photographs.

To book your vehicle in instantly on the internet, simply visit our website at www.hobbsparker.co.uk and click on "Car Auctions", then click on "Add Vehicle to Sale List".

As well as our usual opening times, we shall be open from 3.00pm to 7.00pm Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd May to take entries.

Regrettably no entries will be accepted on the sale day. All start times are approximate and the auction will run continuously.

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PROPERTY NEWS

Lenders ready to be flexible as confidence rises

A GREATER amount of confidence in the property market is leading to increased flexibility among mortgage lenders, according to analysts.

First-time buyers could find higher loan-to-values being offered, said Ben Wilkie, editor of What Mortgage.

Bigger banks are likely to be the ones opening up their finances, he suggested, as they want to get back into the property market to boost their profile.

"It really should help first-time buyers because even to get a ten per cent deposit is hard enough – and to get any higher than that is outrageous for many people," he said.

For first-time buyers really struggling to save money, the expert predicted that a 95 per cent loan-to-value mortgage could be on offer "fairly soon".

Figures from Moneyfacts have revealed that 1,798 mortgage deals were on offer at the beginning of March requiring deposits of up to 40 per cent, up more than six per cent on the previous month.

Insurance vital for self-builders

PROFESSIONAL indemnity insurance is vital for those dealing with architects as it protects home-owners from the costs incurred from setting right any mistakes, experts say.

Julian Owen, chairman of the Association of Self Build Architects, said that it was rare for things to go seriously awry, but when they did the costs could be significant.

He said: "It is not like you can put that down to experience – this is your house we are talking about, so you have got to have that security."

Mr Owen advised home-owners to agree a set budget with the architect prior to the work beginning, so that any later disputes were avoided.

If this early agreement is made, then it is up to the architect to stick to budget or call the homeowner when it is being exceeded.

ASBA is Britain's biggest network of practising architects specialising in the design of individual houses, refurbishments and extensions.



Stamp duty cut brings headache for solicitors

■ BY NICK AMES

FIRST-time buyers have received a leg up on to the property ladder for the next two years as the stamp-duty threshold has been increased from £125,000 to £250,000.

Chancellor Alistair Darling said that the decision to raise the threshold for first-time buyers would result in nine in ten not paying any stamp duty.

He added that the increased allowance was to be funded by an increased stamp-duty level to five per cent from four per cent on properties worth more than £1 million.

The stamp-duty holiday is only available to first-time buyers.

Experts say this may cause difficulties for conveyance solicitors responsible for levying the tax.

There is expected to be an element of self-declaration, which will then have to be verified by checking the Land Registry.

Mike Warburton, of accountants Grant Thornton, said: "This is the first time that a tax has been based on personal circumstances of a first-time buyer rather than the value of the property."

"This will create a minefield for solicitors who will have to check if the house-buyers have bought property before."

If a property is being bought by more than

one individual, all of the buyers have to be first-time buyers to qualify for the stamp-duty holiday.

"The move will undoubtedly help many people achieve home-ownership and we need only look at the recent extension to £175,000 for proof of this."

"Of course, the devil is in the detail and policing this may prove to be a tricky task," said Drew Wotherspoon, of mortgage-broker John Charcol.

The news will boost the market as analysts say some UK residents now reach their 30s before they can afford to get on the ladder.

The average person struggles to find the required deposit, which can now hit 25 per cent of the house value, said Jane Marr, director at the Little House Company.

"I can foresee the situation where people in their 20s do not consider home-ownership and that it will only become a realistic goal once in your 30s as your pay increases and you have had longer to save," she said.

Figures from Rightmove revealed that the proportion of first-time buyers looking to purchase fell to 25.8 per cent, the second successive quarterly fall.

In a healthy housing market, this figure would be expected to be about 40 per cent.

The number of first-time buyers has slumped in recent years.

In 1999, more than 590,000 people took their first step on to the property ladder, but by the peak of the market in 2007, the figure had fallen to 357,000. Last year, it was just 198,000.



BUDGET: Chancellor Alistair Darling cut stamp duty

How to cash in while the sun's shining

THERE are no good arguments against having solar panels installed in the home, according to one expert.

Environmental homes expert Tim Pullen says that solar panels work and they do not need much attention from the home-owner for some 25 years of use.

He said that the first step home-owners should take to make their homes more environmentally friendly was to look at the walls of the property, as this is where 35 per cent of heat was lost.

Mr Pullen reckons that having cavity-wall insulation is a good idea if the homeowner has a decent cavity but if they do not then it is not such a positive step.

He added that the Government's planned introduction of feed-in tariffs was likely to encourage homeowners to think about the benefits of adopting the technology.

The scheme could see homes with solar panels being rewarded with up to £900 and an annual reduction of £140 on electricity bills, according to the Department of Energy and Climate Change.



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- No Forward Chain
- Located close to local schools



KINGSGATE £375,000

- Substantial 5 Bed Detached
- 200 Yards From Botany Bay
- Superb Garden With Splashpool



BROADSTAIRS £450,000

- Executive detached family home
- Five bedrooms, 2 Ensuites
- Cul de sac location



PEGWELL £234,995

- Double fronted det bungalow
- Sought after Pegwell
- No Chain, Garage



RAMSGATE £229,995

- TOO MUCH HOUSE
- Detached family Home
- Conservatory - Lavish Gds



RAMSGATE £185,000

- An Attractive Bungalow
- Approx 200ft Gardens
- Large Drive To The Garage



RAMSGATE £174,995

- 2 bed det bungalow
- Sought after Hillcrest Gardens
- Cul de sac, No chain



RAMSGATE £135,000

- Charming Period Cottage
- High Standard decor
- Rural aspect



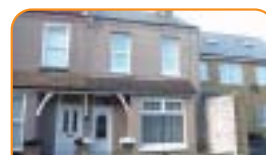
RAMSGATE £159,995

- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Off Street Parking & Garden
- Convenient for Town & Station



RAMSGATE £100,000

- Ground Floor Freehold Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Garden & Garage



RAMSGATE £129,995

- STAMP DUTY EXEMPT!
- 3 Bedroom End Of Terrace
- Some Modernisation Required

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Where terms and conditions apply



RAMSGATE £119,995

- 2 Bedroom Terrace
- Good Order Throughout
- No Chain Involved



RAMSGATE £119,995

- 2/3 Bedrooms
- Cul de sac location
- No forward chain



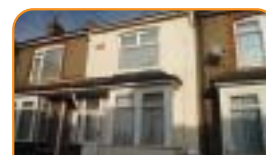
RAMSGATE £119,995

- Two bedrooms
- Eastcliff location
- No Forward Chain



RAMSGATE £59,995

- Retirement apartment
- Partial sea view
- No forward chain



RAMSGATE £119,995

- Victorian 2 Bedroom Terrace
- Modernisation Required
- Sought After 'Saints Area'



RAMSGATE £123,500

- Three Bedrooms
- Central heated
- Viewing recommended



RAMSGATE £114,995

- 2/3 Bedroom Terraced Home
- Outstanding Condition
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room



RAMSGATE £234,995

- 3 Bedroom Bungalow
- Outstanding Condition
- Fantastic Location



BROADSTAIRS £287,500

- 5 Bedroom Detached Home
- Excellent Quality In & Out
- Exceptionally Large Home



RAMSGATE £166,000

- Substantial 3 Bedroom Home
- Excellent Condition Throughout
- Double Glazed, Central Heating



BROADSTAIRS £295,000

- SIMPLY STUNNING
- 3 BED, 2 BATH,
- LUXURY LIVING



BROADSTAIRS £250,000

- Detached three bedroom bungalow
- Off street parking and garage
- Sought after location



BROADSTAIRS £220,000

- Cul-de-sac
- 3 bedrooms
- No chain



BROADSTAIRS £169,500

- A Stones Throw From The Seafront
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Sea Views, No Chain



BROADSTAIRS £185,000

- 3 bedrooms
- 2 receptions, conservatory
- O.S.P NO CHAIN



PALM BAY £244,995

- IMPRESSIVE 4 BED DETACHED
- EXTREMELY WELL-PRESENTED
- CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION



BROADSTAIRS £229,995

- Contemporary Living, No Chain
- 3 bedrooms, Master En Suite
- Parking, Modern Kitchen



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one point
of contact



MARGATE OIRO £119,995

- Ideal FTB or Investment
- Spacious accommodation
- NO FORWARD CHAIN!!



BROADSTAIRS £299,995

- 4 Bed Detached, En-Suite
- Large Family Conservatory
- Prime Broadstairs Location



RAMSGATE £134,995

- Two bedrooms
- No forward chain
- 'Saints' location



CLIFFSEND £209,995

- The ultimate detached bungalow
- Conservatory - Contemporary!
- Large landscaped gds, garage



RAMSGATE £169,995

- Extended 3 Bed Semi
- Off Street Parking
- 2 Recepts plus kitchen/Diner



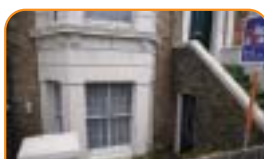
BROADSTAIRS £224,995

- Rarely Available
- 2 beds, Good Size Rooms
- Low Maintenance Gardens



PALM BAY £199,995

- 3 Bedrooms, Close To Shops
- 28' Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- NO CHAIN!!



MARGATE £77,500

- NO FORWARD CHAIN
- IDEAL INVESTMENT OR FTB
- Spacious living accommodation



MARGATE £79,995

- Modernised 2 bedroom flat
- No Forward Chain !!
- Close to sea and local amenities



MARGATE £99,995

- 2 bed, purpose built flat
- Ideal BTL
- No Forward Chain



MARGATE £114,995

- Versatile accommodation
- Close to local amenities
- NO FORWARD CHAIN !!



PALM BAY £279,995

- Six Double Bedrooms
- 23'2 x 17'8 Lounge
- Sea Views



MARGATE £75,000

- Two bedrooms
- Split level apartment
- No onward chain



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MARGATE £109,995

- Modernised 2 bed apartment
- Sought-after location !!
- Partial sea views !!



MARGATE £199,995

- Family Home on a Large Plot
- 4 Beds, 3 Receptions
- Packed with Original Features !!



MARGATE £79,950

- Spacious Two Bedroom Apartment
- Ground Floor
- CHAIN FREE!



GARLINGE £139,995

- Deceptive Three Bedrooms
- Brick Workshop/Office to Rear
- CHAIN FREE



GARLINGE £144,995

- Three Bedroom Family Home
- Off Street Parking to Front
- CHAIN FREE!



WESTBROOK £164,995

- Freehold Commercial Premises
- Spacious 2 Bedroom Apartment over
- VACANT POSSESSION



MARGATE £189,995

- Six Bedroom Semi
- Sought After Location
- Chain Free!



MARGATE £250,000

- Versatile Six Bedroom Family Home
- Garage and off-street parking
- South Facing Rear Garden



WESTBROOK £189,995

- Three Beds & Attic Room
- Extended Kitchen Diner
- Sunny Mature Rear Garden



WESTBROOK £235,000

- 4 bedrooms & Large Gdn
- Conservatory & Garage
- Osp, Dg & Gfch



WESTGATE-ON-SEA £159,995

- Three Bedroom Family Home
- Sunny Back Garden
- Sudg, Gfch & No Chain



WESTGATE-ON-SEA £299,995

- Rarely Available Opportunity
- 4 Storeys & 8 Bedrooms
- Wealth of Original Features



BIRCHINGTON £114,995

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Purpose Built Apartment
- Allocated Parking



BIRCHINGTON £94,995

- Ground Floor Apartment
- One Double Bedroom
- Allocated Parking, No Chain



BIRCHINGTON £215,000

- Four Double Bedrooms & EnSuite
- Semi-Detached + OSP + Garage
- NHBC Guaranteed



BIRCHINGTON £490,000

- Executive Mock Tudor Style Home
- En-Suite and Walk In Wardrobe
- Four Double Bedrooms, Sea Views



BIRCHINGTON £275,000

- Three Bedroom Detached Home
- Sought After Cul-De-Sac Setting
- Open Sea Views over Apple Bay



RAMSGATE £159,995

- 4/5 Bedroom Georgian Home
- Refurbishment Required
- Central Ramsgate Location

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£134,995 Ramsgate

Mid-Terraced House, Three Bedrooms, Lounge Plus Dining Area, Garage Plus Off Street Parking, Garden To Rear, Close To All Local Amenities



St Peters £144,995

Terraced House, Two Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Character Features, Garden To Rear, Within School Catchments, Viewing Highly Recommended



Broadstairs £144,995

Terraced House, Three Bedrooms, No Onwards Chain, Popular Location, Garden To Rear, Viewing Recommended



Margate £157,500

Double Fronted Terraced House, Three Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Two Reception Rooms, Conservatory, Close To Local Amenities



Broadstairs £169,950

Semi Detached Bungalow, Two Bedrooms, Approx 75ft Rear Garden, Garage, Quiet Location, No Onwards Chain



Minster £169,995

Semi Detached Bungalow, Two Bedrooms, Approx 85ft Garden, Garage Plus Driveway, Sought After Location, Close To Village Amenities



Broadstairs £172,000

Semi Detached House, Three Bedrooms, Corner Plot, Garage, Popular Location, Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room



Margate £174,995

Double Storey Extended Home, Semi Detached, Three Bedrooms, Garage Plus Driveway, Convenient Location, Part Decked/Part Grass Garden, Must Be Viewed



Broadstairs £179,995

Apartment Flat, Split Level, Two Bedrooms, Sea Views, No Onwards Chain, 100 Yards To Seafront, Immaculate Throughout



Minster £179,995

Semi Detached Bungalow, Two Bedrooms, Parking, Cul-De-Sac Location, Conservatory, Excellent Order Throughout, No Onwards Chain, Gardens To Front & Rear



Margate £194,995

Detached Bungalow, Two Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Corner Plot, Excellent Order Throughout, Viewing Highly Recommended, Superb Fitted Kitchen



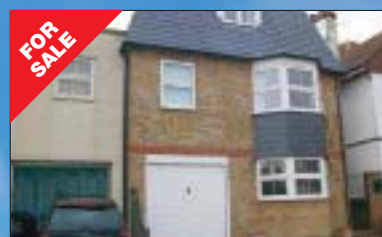
Broadstairs £199,950

Terraced House, Three Bedrooms, Approx 100ft Garden, Close To Botany Bay Beach, Exposed Wood Features, Excellent Order Throughout, Sought After Location



Broadstairs £229,995

Semi Detached House, Three bedrooms, Large Conservatory, Gardens To Front & Rear, Prime Residential Location, Downstairs Cloakroom, Garage Plus Driveway



Margate £234,995

Link Detached House, Four Bedrooms, Contemporary Design, Garage Plus Driveway, Superbly Presented, Landscaped Rear Garden



Margate £239,995

Semi Detached Bungalow, Three Bedrooms, Superb Order Throughout, 19th Century Folly, Garage Plus Driveway, Good Size Gardens, Popular Residential District



Minnis Bay £249,995

Detached Bungalow, Two Bedrooms, Highly Desirable Location, No Onwards Chain, Garage, Private Road Situation, 400 Yards From Beach, Good Size Rear Garden



Ramsgate £289,995

Detached House, Three Bedrooms, Excellent Order Throughout, 200 Yards From Clifftop Walks, Off Street Parking, Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom, Conservatory



Westgate-On-Sea £325,000

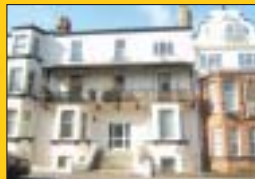
Double Fronted House, Five/Six Bedrooms, Immaculate Throughout, Open Farmland Views, Parking, Corner Plot, Bathroom + Shower Room, Spacious Accommodation

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parkland estates



Cliftonville £60,000

- One Bedroom
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- D/G
- Ideal Buy To Let



Birchington £99,500

- One Double Bedroom
- Allocated Parking
- Comunal Gardens
- Great Presentation



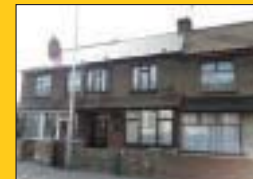
Ramsgate £104,995

- Potential 2 Double Beds
- Garden
- Chain Free
- Grade I Listed



Margate £109,995

- Ground Floor
- Sea Views
- Gas Central Heating
- 50M To Sea Front



Margate £120,000

- Three Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen And Bathroom
- D/G And C/H



Cliftonville £123,500

- End Of Terrace
- Two Bedrooms
- Vacant Possession
- Hard Paved Rear Garden



Ramsgate £137,500

- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Newly Fitted Bathroom
- Popular Location



Ramsgate £159,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Sought After Location
- Enclosed Rear Garden



Ramsgate £160,000

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Enclosed Rear Garden



Ramsgate £167,500

- Three Bedrooms
- 20ft Kitchen / Diner
- Chain Free
- Off Street Parking

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parkland estates



Ramsgate £174,995

- Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Off Street Parking



Garlinge £184,995

- Fantastic Bungalow
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Osp For 3/4 Cars



Ramsgate £189,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Sought After Location
- Fitted Kitchen
- Sunny Lounge



Margate £229,950

- 3/4 Double Bedrooms
- Stunning Park Views
- Parking 4 Cars + Garage
- D/Glazing + C Heating



Ramsgate £232,500

- 4/5 Double Bedrooms
- Dg And Gfch
- 22Ft Kitchen/ B-fast Room
- 1/4 Mile To Sea Front



Ramsgate £234,995

- 4 Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- Loft Room
- 60 Foot Garden



Broadstairs £244,995

- Two Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Modern Kitchen



Birchington £275,000

- Sought After Location
- Three Bedrooms
- Seaviews
- Kitchen & Bathroom



Ramsgate £338,654

- Seven Bedrooms
- Lower Ground Floor Flat
- Sought After Location
- Gas Central Heating



Minnis Bay £490,000

- Four Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Sea Views
- Off Street Parking



Ramsgate £525,000

- Grade 2 Listed House
- Panoramic Sea Views
- 5/6 Bedrooms
- 4 Reception Rooms

Ramsgate Office

175-177 King Street,
Ramsgate,
Kent CT11 8PN

email: ramsgate@
parklandestates.co.uk

01843 851777

Cliftonville Office

131 Northdown Road,
Cliftonville,
Kent CT9 2QY

email: cliftonville@
parklandestates.co.uk

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Birchington Office

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Kent CT7 9DJ

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Kings Street, Ramsgate



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- Two bedrooms
 - Open plan
 - 100 yards from the sea
- From £600pcm**

Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville



- 2bedroom apartment
 - 2nd floor, great sea views
 - DSS welcome
- From 495pcm**

Northdown Road, Cliftonville



- 3 bedrooms
 - Close to shops
 - Housing benefits considered
- From £500pcm**

Trinty Place, Ramsgate



- Newly built 3 bed house
 - Conservatory, rear garden
 - Unsuit shower to master
- From £725pcm**

Surrey Road, Cliftonville



- Two bedrooms
 - Excellent décor
 - Dss welcome
- From £550pcm**

Fort Hill, Cliftonville



- 3 bedrooms
 - Sea views
 - Lovely family home
- From £595pcm**

Fort hill, Margate



- Quaint character cottage
 - 2bedroom, great location
 - Gch, stunning sea views
- From £550pcm**

Trinity Court, Cliftonville



- One bedroom
 - Fully intergrated kitchen
 - Modern décor
- From £450pcm**

Northdown Road, Cliftonville



- 2 bedrooms
 - Spanish style development
 - Allocated parking
- From £550pcm**

Station Road, Westgate



- 2 bedrooms
 - Close to station
 - Housing benefits considered (with guarantor)
- From £525pcm**

Kingsgate Avenue, Kingsgate



- 2 bedroom apartment
 - Fantastic location
 - Fully intergrated appliances
- From £650pcm**



- Good waiting tenants
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- Property Maintenance Services
- Competitive fees





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Westbrook £400
One Bedroom, Split Level, Rear Garden



Cliftonville £350
One Bedroom, Spacious, Modern Kitchen



Margate £370
One Bedroom, Modern Kitchen, GFCH



Cliftonville £400
Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Property



Cliftonville £425
Two bedrooms, New Conversion, Fitted Bathroom & Kitchen



Cliftonville £300
One Bedroom, Split Level, Rear Courtyard



Cliftonville £425
One Bedroom, Ground Floor, Modern Property



Calling all Landlords - for the month of April, Thompson Lettings is offering a managed fee at 7% INCLUDING VAT, don't miss out, call today on 01843 220737 or pop along to our office situated in Northdown Road, Cliftonville



Ramsgate £370
One Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Close To Sea



Garlinge £600
Three Bedrooms, Kitchen/Diner, Rear Gardens



Ramsgate £450
One Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Westcliff of Ramsgate



Margate £395
One Bedroom, Allocated Parking, Viewing A Must



Cliftonville £350
Two Bedrooms, No Deposit Required, Dss Welcome



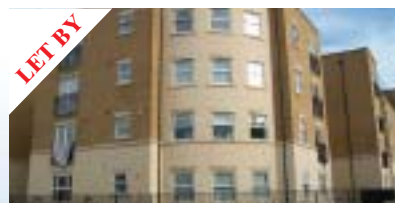
Ramsgate £370
One Bedroom, Close to the Sea, Lounge/Kitchen



Cliftonville £430
Two Bedrooms, Lounge/Kitchen, Gas Fired Central Heating



Cliftonville £400



Cliftonville £540



Ramsgate £550



Margate £550

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Ref: 691/E
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Ref: 692/E
Maidstone

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mcch also have a **Finance Officer** role based in Maidstone at £16,607, if you require further information on the post please contact us. **Ref: 699/E**

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Principal: Ian Johnson

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Closing date: 21st April 2010

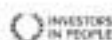


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Blues show steely side as effort to stay up is eased

FOOTBALL

BY STEVE Tervet

Tonbridge Angels 0

Margate 0

MARGATE edged their way a little closer to safety over the Easter weekend with two draws in two days against sides at opposite ends of the table.

Monday's Kent derby at Longmead Stadium saw the Blues hold Tonbridge Angels to a goalless draw, ending the Angels' five-game winning run.

The 1-1 draw at home to Bognor Regis Town on Saturday favoured the Blues more than their struggling West Sussex opponents, but Margate only came to life after a half-time dressing-down from manager Iain O'Connell.

Trouble

Bognor took a 16th-minute lead courtesy of Jason Prior and some very slack Gate defending. The striker headed James Crane's looping cross beyond the right hand of Blues goalkeeper Jamie Turner.

Richard Hudson could have put the hosts into deeper trouble when Curtis Robinson's slip gave him a clear run on goal, but Turner this time came to the rescue with a smart save.

With Bognor playing all the football, Margate were reliant on Aaron Lacy's long throws as their main threat, with James Pinnock latching on to one and shooting into a sea of white-and-green shirts.

Even with O'Connell's words ringing in their ears, the Blues came close to going 2-0 down



ON THE LEVEL: James Pinnock, left, scored Gate's equaliser on Saturday, while Jay Saunders, right, wins a header

early in the second-half when George Barker's drive clipped the crossbar.

Dan Stubbs saw his flashing shot cleared off the line after he met Grant Cooper's deep free-kick, but the home fans did not have to wait much longer for their equaliser.

A long Turner punt upfield sailed all the way through to Pinnock, who held off his man before firing a fierce shot under the body of Anthony Ender.

Barker went close to restoring Bognor's lead instantly, though, turning Prior's cross inches

wide with Turner well beaten in the Gate goal.

Dean Grant's introduction for the ineffective Leroy Huggins gave Margate renewed impetus late on, but they were unable to fashion the winner that would have given them precious breathing space.

O'Connell said: "I don't think the players' minds were right in the first-half."

"There were only five or six giving me 100 per cent, so I went in at half-time and told them what I thought – but at least they reacted to that and showed me what they can do."

FOOTBALL



FIRST UP: Gary Lockyer, red, opened Rams' scoring

Ramsgate pick up four points to make it a happy Easter

Ramsgate 0 Ashford Town 0

RAMSGATE'S win-lose sequence came to an end on Monday as they scrapped out a goalless draw with Kent rivals Ashford Town at Southwood Stadium.

The previous fixture between the pair produced five goals, with the Rams winning 3-2 at Homelands, but this was a drab affair and neither side was worthy of victory.

The Rams were 2-0 winners at Eastbourne Town on Saturday, with manager Jim Ward's attacking approach paying dividends against the struggling East Sussex side.

Lining up in a 3-4-3 formation, the Rams attempted to play neat football against their more direct opponents, who twice went close in the opening exchanges through Stuart Tuck and Richard Kai.

However, Rams striker Gary Lockyer gave the visitors a 1-0 lead on the half-hour mark, converting from the penalty spot after Tom Tsangarides had been fouled in the area.

Gary Mickelborough could have doubled the lead 60 seconds later when he rounded Russell Tanner, but his shot rolled against the post and away to safety.

The game was effectively put to bed six minutes before the break when Rhys Lawson crossed and Andy Hadden dived to head the ball home.

Hadden, Tsangarides and substitute Kenny Pratt all went close to making it 3-0 before Danny Twyman saved a last-minute penalty from Kai to secure his clean sheet.

Ward said: "We were right down to the bare bones – we had five or six players missing and I had Ollie Gray as my only recognised centre-back."

"I played a new system and, to be fair, 2-0 flattered Eastbourne."

"Danny saved a penalty in the last minute, but they didn't deserve anything from the game."

• Rams travel to Chipstead on Saturday.

Worn-out Wanderers' season nears end

RUGBY

Sidcup 43 Thanet Wanderers 5

THE end of a long, tiring season is now just days away for Thanet Wanderers, who were thoroughly outplayed in their penultimate outing by a rampant Sidcup.

With the hosts still harbouring hopes of pipping Dover to second spot and a promotion play-off, Thanet were always going to have their work cut out, especially with a lengthy list of absentees.

Indeed, Sidcup dominated the first period and raced into a 29-0 lead before Warren Day touched down in the corner to register Wanderers' first – and only – points of the afternoon.

Head coach Tom Carlier appeared to have instilled new belief into his players at half-time as Sidcup failed to add to their tally immediately after the break, but tiredness eventually told as the hosts romped to a crushing 38-point victory.

The fixture list has not been kind to Thanet in recent weeks, but while defeats at champions Gravesend and high-flying Cobham were by narrow margins, this was a result that indicated the end of the season cannot come soon enough.

Old Colfeians provide the opposition for Thanet as they conclude their programme on



DOMINATED: Thanet Wanderers, in blue, were slaughtered by a Sidcup side still hunting for second place and promotion

Saturday knowing they can still leapfrog Wimbleton and claim eighth spot – a reasonable return from what has been an occasionally turbulent campaign.

Thanet 1st XV manager Michelle McLean said: "The message at half-time was just to keep going because we scored the last try before half-time. At that point there were only

a couple of tries in it, so we felt we could still get back in the game."

"The only thing to say is that we've played the top three or four teams in the last few weeks, so in that sense we've done well."

"It's important to win against Colfeians because we want to end the season on a high and take that into next season."

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